

**A Birder's Guide
to
Southeastern Arizona**



by James A. Lane

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to
SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

by
JAMES A. LANE

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PREFACE

Of all the great birding areas in the United States, Southeastern Arizona still remains my favorite. I have visited here annually for over 25 years, and I still find it just as exciting and rewarding as on my first visit. I hope that this book will help you to discover this magnificent spot.

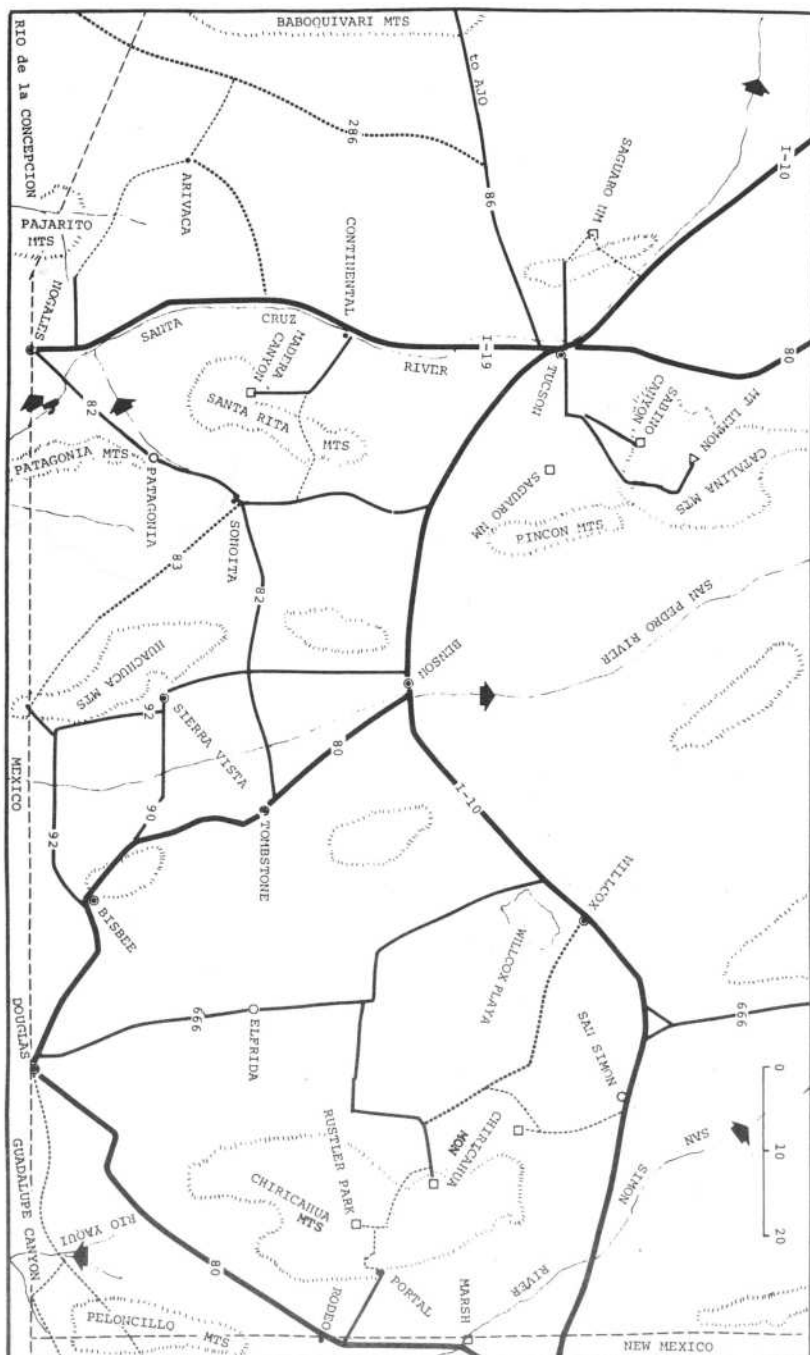
Over the years many of my friends have offered advice on improving this guide. However, I am even more grateful to the numerous birders who have written about the things which they found wrong with the book or with suggestions for additions. Since the book will be revised again in the future, I hope that you too will advise me of any errors or omissions that you find.

I would particularly like to thank the following people: Larry Balch, Janice Bezore, Jewel Bezore, Steve Bezore, Barbara Berton, Edward Chalif, Edna Chamness, Peter Christensen, Hal Coss, Mary Dodd, Bill Harrison, Wes Hetrick, Harold and LaVona Holt, Glenn Isaacson, Billie Lane, Cebina Lane, Kent Nelson, Carroll and Jean Peabody, Edna Phelps, George Pilling, Noble Proctor, Eleanor Pugh, Vincent Roth, Doug Salyar, Fletcher Sillick, Larry Smith, Tom Southerland, Rich Stallcup, Bernard Weiderman, Hugh Willoughby, Bob Witzeman, Fern Zimmerman, and a special thanks to Jolan Truan for the trogon on the cover.

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INTRODUCTION

Southeastern Arizona is one of the most exciting spots for birding in the entire country. More than 300 species regularly occur here. Of these, 25 are not regularly found elsewhere in the United States. Another 30 or so are found only in this region or in parts of Texas and New Mexico.

Not only is the birding exceptional, but the scenery is spectacular. If Cave Creek Canyon, Barfoot Peak, Sonoita Creek, or any of the other beautiful spots were found in any other state, they would be declared scenic wonders and set aside as national parks. Where else in the United States would you take time out from watching such dazzling birds as the Magnificent Hummingbird, Red-faced Warbler, or Painted Redstart to look at the scenery?

EARLY BIRDERS

The first "bird lists" for this region are those to be found in the journals of the Coronado Expedition, which came down the San Pedro River in 1540. About 200 years later, Father Kino made note of the birds in his writings. However, the first real ornithological exploration of Southeastern Arizona occurred during the Indian hostilities after the Civil War and was conducted by members of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Under the direction and inspiration of Professor Spencer Baird, director of the Smithsonian Institution, these well-educated medical men were encouraged to secure specimens in this largely unexplored region. Many of the first or type specimens of Arizona birds were collected by such members of the Medical Corps as Bendire, Coues, Dutcher, Irwin, Mearns, and Willcox. The localities were such places as Fort Apache, Fort Bowie, Fort Defiance, Fort Huachuca, Fort Lowell, and Fort Whipple.

Since the countryside was filled with hostile Indians, birding in those days was not exactly like our Sunday bird-walks. For example, Charles Bendire, while climbing a tree to secure eggs, realized that he was being watched by Indians from a nearby hillside. He quickly put the eggs in his mouth and hurried down the tree. He was luckier than Elliott Coues. In pursuit of a *Phainopepla*, Coues came upon the bleeding bodies of some soldiers from his fort.

GEOLOGY

Southeastern Arizona, which is commonly thought of as that part of the state lying south and east of Tucson, has a complex geology. Basically, it is a high plateau sloping westward from the Continental Divide. However, this small area contains the termini of four major land divisions — the Rocky Mountains, the Chihuahuan Desert, the Sonoran Desert, and the Sierra Madre Mountains.

The Rocky Mountains from the north have their southern terminus in the Catalina and Rincon Mountains. These ranges are largely composed of metamorphosed sedimentary rocks overlying a base of igneous rocks. Their vegetation is similar to that of more northerly mountains.

The Chihuahuan Desert from the southeast ends in isolated patches around Tombstone. It is characterized by thorny brush, particularly White-thorn Acacia, and is more less restricted to areas of limestone.

The Sonoran Desert reaches its eastern limit with long thorny fingers that extend well into the region near Tucson. This desert is characterized by cacti, particularly cholla and saguaro.

Of most interest to the birder is the northern terminus of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. These so-called "Mexican Mountains" are well represented by the Baboquivari (Bah-bo-key-VAH-rie), Pajarito (Pah-hah-REE-toe), Santa Rita, Patagonia, Huachuca (Wah-CHEW-cah), and Chiricahua (Cheery-CAH-wah) Ranges. For the most part, they are isolated peaks of volcanic origin. Their vegetation is similar to that of more southerly mountains.

Each geological division has a somewhat different group of plants and animals. Combined, they make a long list. In addition to the 300-plus birds, there are some 29 fish, 17 amphibians, 67 reptiles, 95 mammals, and about 1880 plants. No one has counted the insects, but bugwatchers find this a paradise.

The area can be further separated into life zones and biotic communities. Going from the desert at Tucson (2389 feet) to the spruce forest atop Chiricahua Peak (9795 feet), one crosses five life zones: Lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, and Hudsonian. The major plant communities are desertscrub, grassland, brushland, oak woodland, pine forest, and spruce-fir forest.

The water drainage of the region is equally complex and also deceptive, since most of the water flows underground. The drainage is composed of two rivers that flow north, two that flow south, one that flows both north and south, and a series of creeks that go nowhere. Those flowing north are the San Simon and the San Pedro. Both empty into the Gila River, which flows westward along the northern edge of the area toward the Colorado River. The south-flowing streams are the tributaries of the Rio de la Concepcion and the Rio Yaqui. The Santa Cruz River rises in the San Rafael Valley east of Nogales, flows southward into Mexico, makes a big loop, and then flows northward through Tucson to join the Gila. The Sulphur Springs Valley is drained by numerous creeks that deadend in a large soda lake called the Willcox Playa.

WEATHER

Sunshine is the most constant weather feature here. A day without sunshine in Arizona is rare indeed. From October until June, this abundance of sun makes almost every day a perfect day. Of course, there is that little period from June through September when the word "desert" takes on a special meaning.

Midsummer temperatures around Tucson average 100° or more during the day and do not cool off much at night. The low humidity helps to make the heat bearable, but not much. On the other hand, the mountains are quite comfortable in summer, particularly after the rains begin.

Southeastern Arizona is a land of summer rains, which start about July first and end about September first. Moist air from the Gulf of Mexico (Atlantic Ocean) moves northwestward into the area. On crossing the hot mountains, it rises quickly, forming huge cumulo-nimbus clouds. Every afternoon these clouds build over the peaks and then drift across the surrounding countryside. They are accompanied by intense lightning, thunderclaps, and downpours. These showers are so concentrated that you can stand at the edge of the rain and wash your hands without getting wet.

During the summer rainy season, the nights and mornings are ideal. As a rule, it rains only during the afternoon and then only for an hour or so. Since these showers are so cooling and refreshing, you will soon be looking forward to them. Occasionally, a storm will move in from the Gulf of California (Pacific Ocean) and it will rain all night. These storms may be the outer fringes of tropical hurricanes and can produce unusual birds.

Winter rains usually occur about once a month and seldom last more than a day or two. Most winter days are balmy although the nights are cool, particularly in the mountains. Camping in winter can still be pleasant on the low deserts, if you can find a vacant place.

WHEN TO COME

The summer birding season here extends from the first of May until about the middle of September, but to find most of the more unusual birds for which the area is famous, you should come between **May 15th and August 15th**. Many birders visit during the last two weeks of May because the weather is ideal and the low deserts are not yet excessively hot. However, the last few springs have been exceedingly dry, and the National Forests have been closed to entry. Many of the better birding spots are not accessible from late May until the first rains come in early July. It is wise to call the Forestry Service before coming at this time (Coronado National Forest, Federal Building, Tucson, AZ 85701 - phone 602 792-6483).

June is the hottest month, but the birding can be very good. Due to the summer rains, the mountains are most pleasant in July and August. The rains not only cool things off; they also change the parched landscape to green and induce many birds to start singing and nesting.

Your chances of finding the rarer hummingbirds such as the Violet-crowned and White-eared are better in late July and August, when they move northward after nesting in Mexico. With a lot of luck at this time, you may find one of the really exotic species such as the Bumblebee, Berylline, or even one so rare that everybody will call it a hybrid until they have seen it themselves. This is also the time to find the western migrants: Anna's, Rufous, and perhaps Allen's or Calliope.

April and early May are the best times to find warblers and other migrants, but too early for some of the nesting birds such as Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Rose-throated Becard. These are hard to find until after the 15th of May. The fall movement of migrants from the north is most conspicuous in late August and September.

Winter birding can be rewarding at lower elevations, particularly on the desert and grasslands. The higher mountains are often snow-covered and, with the exception of Mount Lemmon, closed. The birds of this season begin to arrive in October, or even earlier, but do not become common until in November. They begin to leave in March and are mostly gone by mid-April.

WHAT TO BRING

Out here in the West things are rather informal. Casual attire is acceptable nearly anywhere. Levis or tough slacks are the order of the day for birding at all seasons. One hike across the desert will show why. Nearly every plant has thorns of one type or another. Also bring a warm jacket. The nights can be deceptively cool, both summer and winter. A tent may be useful too for camping, because it does rain in spite of what the Chamber of Commerce says.

WHERE TO STAY

Most of the available camping and lodging facilities are listed at the end of each loop. Additional list of motels, etc., may be obtained from the Chambers of Commerce of the various cities or from the numerous travel guides. More details on camping sites are available from the Supervisor, Colorado National Forest, Federal Building, Tucson, AZ 85701. Be sure to ask for the map of the Cornado National Forest.

Southeastern Arizona is an ideal spot for camping. The weather is warm and usually dry. Biting insects are few, although this is one of the buggiest

places on earth in summer. Mosquitoes are rare in the mountains, but may be encountered around water-holes at lower elevations. New campers worry about snakes; however, you will be lucky to find one even during your entire stay.

CAMPGROUNDS

Location	Name	Elevation	Open
Tucson	Gilbert Ray (Tucson Mountain Park)	3,000	All year
	Colossal Cave	3,000	All year
	Lower Bear Canyon	3,000	All year
	(Sabino Canyon)		
Mount Lemmon	Molino Basin	4,500	All year
	Rose Canyon	7,000	Apr-Nov
	Spencer Canyon	7,700	Apr-Nov
	Bear Wallow	7,600	May-Sep
	Peppersauce (near Oracle)	4,600	All year
Madera Canyon	Bog Springs	5,600	Apr-Nov
Peña Blanca Lake	White Rock	4,000	All year
	Calabasas Canyon	4,000	All year
Parker Lake	Lakeview	5,500	All year
Chiricahua Mountains	Idlewild (Cave Creek)	4,500	Apr-Nov
	Stewart (Cave Creek)	4,500	Apr-Nov
	Sunny Flats (Cave Creek)	4,600	Apr-Nov
	South Fork (Cave Creek)	4,600	Apr-Nov
	Rustler Park	8,200	May-Sep
	Pinery Canyon	6,000	Apr-Nov
	West Turkey Creek	5,000	May-Oct
Rucker Lake	Rucker	6,500	Apr-Oct
	Rucker Lake	6,500	Apr-Oct
	Cypress Park	6,000	Apr-Nov

GUIDE SERVICE

The University of Arizona has an excellent Department of Ornithology, which attracts a number of graduate students. Most are ardent birders and, like college kids anywhere, usually broke. They are eager to hire out as guides and for reasonable fees. Group tours are urged to contact the Tucson

Audubon Society (Box 3981, Tucson, AZ 85717), in advance, for information and help. The society is trying to prevent the overuse of fragile habitats and confrontations with the owners of private property.

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO THE VIEWER

Nearly everyone has tried the various squeakers and calls that are sold to attract birds. After a few days the novelty wears off, and they become too much trouble to carry around. The most durable noises are still the hissing-at-the-villain or pishing sound and those made by sucking on the back of the hand, which sounds somewhat like a lover's lane on a moonlit night. However, in Southeastern Arizona there is one sound that outdoes them all — the call of the Pygmy Owl. No other sound will excite the birds of the mountains nearly as much. It is not uncommon to attract 15 to 20 species at once!

In order to be a truly successful birder here, it is absolutely essential that you learn to hoot like an owl, preferably Pygmy or Whiskered. During the practice period, you might be ridiculed by your family or given odd glances by your neighbors, but when you have mastered the technique, you will be a bird-finder extraordinary.

If you just cannot squeak, hiss, pish, or hoot, you can still attract birds by using a tape-recorder. Most birds will respond to a recording of their calls, even the trogon. During the day, small birds can be attracted with owl calls. At night, the owls themselves can be coaxed into view by playing their respective calls, and there are 10 species of owls to be found here! Remember, birds are not hard of hearing. Do not play the tapes loudly. Most birds will come much closer if the tape is played softly. This is particularly true of owls.

To make an owl tape from a bird-song record, pick one owl and record its call without the human voice. Run 15 seconds of silent tape, and then record the call again. Do this until you have several minutes of calls. You will find your tape much easier to use in the dark if you have several minutes of calls for each owl. You will also find that original recordings made from the owls themselves work much better than reproductions from bird-song records.

It is possible to make a simple whistle that sounds very much like an owl. Take a tin-can lid and bend it in half. With an ice pick punch a hole through both sides near the center and about an eighth of an inch above the bend. Place the whistle well back into the mouth, put the tip of the tongue on the edge near the holes, and blow softly in short puffs. Do not cover the holes with the tongue. One side of the whistle usually works better than the other. Different tones can be obtained by varying the size of the holes and the distance between the sides of the whistle. With enough effort, you can learn to sound like an owl. Unhappily, small boys and the people who can imitate an owl without the whistle do the best job.

When you find a tree with a hole, gently tap or rub the trunk. You may get an owl or woodpecker to stick its head out. **DON'T POUND ON THE TREE.** That will only drive the bird deeper into the hole.

FINDING REPTILES

Most desert reptiles are nocturnal and seldom seen unless a special effort is made to find them. Many can be found by turning over rocks, boards, and logs. (Please return the rocks, etc., to their original positions so as to maintain the habitat.) However, as a rule the best way to find them is to drive back-country roads at night, particularly after rains. The best roads are those that have vegetation growing close to the edges.

SOME HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

An excellent map of the Coronado National Forest and all of South-eastern Arizona can be obtained by writing to the Supervisor, Coronado National Forest, Federal Building, Tucson, AZ 85701. The official state map is available from the Arizona Highway Department, 2039 West Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. Very detailed contour topographical maps can be ordered from the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO 80201. First write for the Index to Arizona Maps, for which there is no charge, and then pick the ones that you want.

A list of organizations and people who are willing to help traveling birders is published by the Tahoma Audubon Society. It can be obtained by sending \$1.00 to Operation Nature Guide, 34915 4th Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington 98002. A similar roster is available from the American Birding Association, Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765, but you must become a member (\$7.50 per year).

Most of the standard field guides are useful in Arizona, including those on Mexico. There are also numerous local publications that cover the flora and fauna of this area. The better ones are listed in the reference list at the end of this book. Many of these can be obtained at the Arizona State Museum on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson, or at the visitors' center of the Saguaro National Monument, either east or west section.

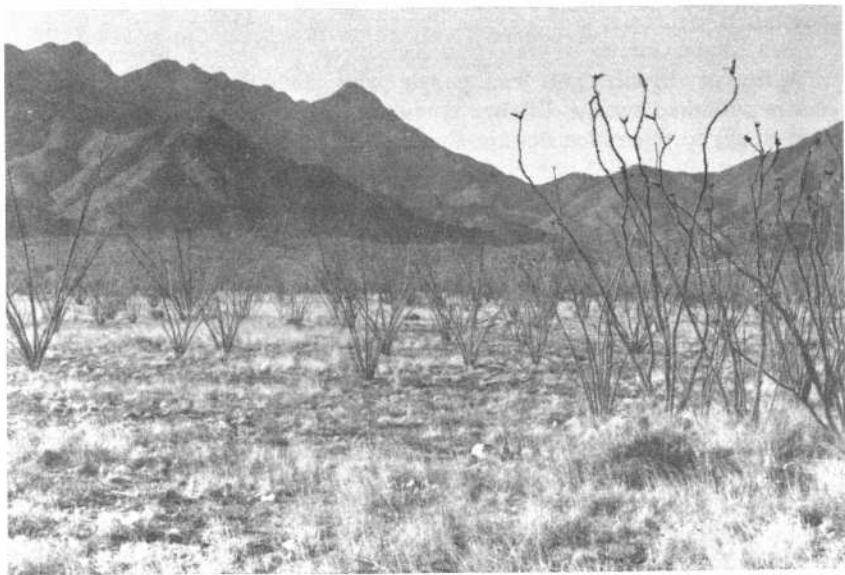
THE ARIZONA BIRD COMMITTEE

The Arizona Bird Committee was created in 1972 to improve the quality of bird records and to further our knowledge of bird distribution within the state. The committee would appreciate detailed descriptions to substantiate any sightings of accidental, rare, or otherwise unusual birds. Please send details to Robert A. Witzeman (4619 East Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018). Your detailed descriptions (preferably written at the time of

sighting without reference to a field guide) will be circulated among the six members of the ABC. They will evaluate the report and notify you (if desired) of their decision.

Some records will be published in **American Birds** and **Western Birds**, and all in the committee's annual report that is sent to all contributors. All descriptions and supplementary material (photographs, sound recordings, etc.) and the committee's decisions will be filed in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Arizona.

The committee, under the sponsorship of the University of Arizona and the Tucson and Maricopa Audubon Societies, has prepared a new checklist for the state of Arizona. This pocket-sized checklist provides a general indication of the status of bird species in the state as a whole. The list was compiled from **Birds of Arizona** (page 107) and supplemented by more recent records. It is obtainable by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and 10¢ to Robert A. Witzeman (address above). Additionally, copies of the committee's annual report, **Arizona Bird Records**, are obtainable in like manner. Copies of the "Verification of Unusual Sight Record" form reprinted below are also available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



Ocotillos above Florida Canyon

ARIZONA BIRD COMMITTEE

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: _____ Date: _____

Number: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Locality (Exact address or other specific information to describe location, such as x miles north of x intersection): _____

County: _____ City: _____ Elevation: _____

Time: _____ Length of time observed: _____

Habitat: _____

Distance to bird: _____ Light conditions: _____

Optical equipment: _____

Observer: _____

Other observers who independently identified this bird: _____

Description. Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern color, and any unique features.

Voice and/or call notes: _____

Behavior: _____

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

What similar species might it have been, and how were these eliminated?

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how these influenced this description:

Significance of record in the area and/or state:

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape-recording if available):

Signature:

Address:

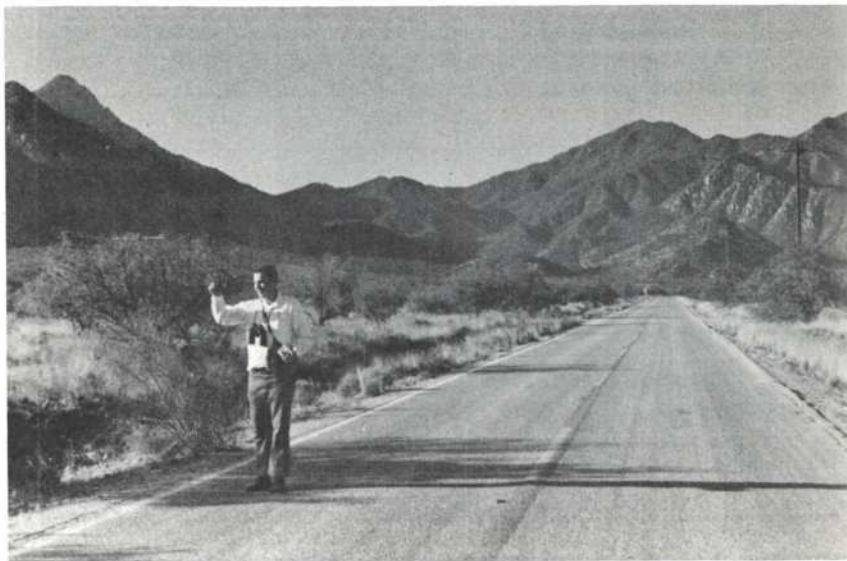
Date Prepared:

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The main purpose of this guide is to help the visiting birder. An effort is made to list at least three places where the more unusual species can be found. These spots are not always the best birding areas; however, when an outstanding spot is listed, it is shown in **bold-faced type**. If your time is limited, stop only at these places.

The book is divided into loop trips. Listed under the title of each are the total mileage and the minimum time recommended to cover the area. After some locations, mileages are shown in parentheses. This represents the distance from the last place mentioned and not from the starting point.

Allow at least a week to cover all the loops. If you have less time, it is recommended that you first visit the Desert Museum and then Madera Canyon. From May until November, you should next visit Patagonia and if at all possible the Chiricahua Mountains, which many birders consider the best area in the state. The mountains are not particularly productive from November until April, and the upper portions may be closed by snow (except Mount Lemmon). During the winter, the deserts and grasslands are the best areas. Plan a trip to the grasslands around Sonoita or the Sulphur Springs Valley for hawks, sparrows, and longspurs.

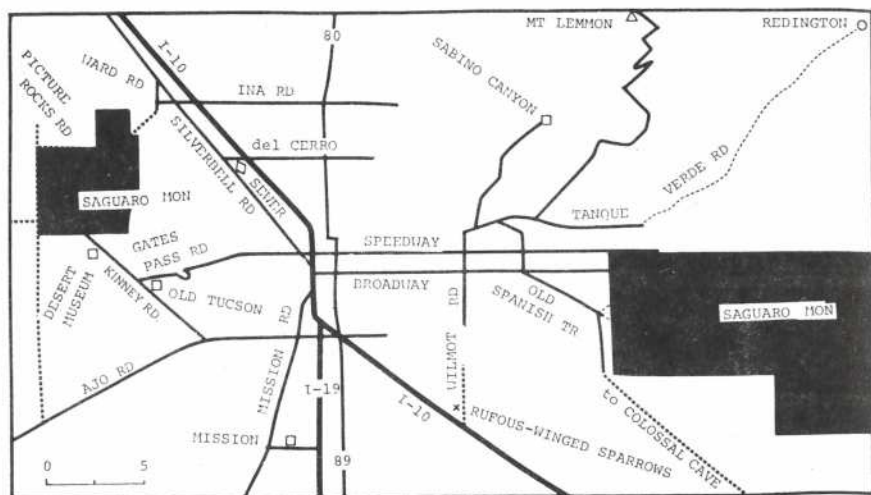


Road to Madera Canyon

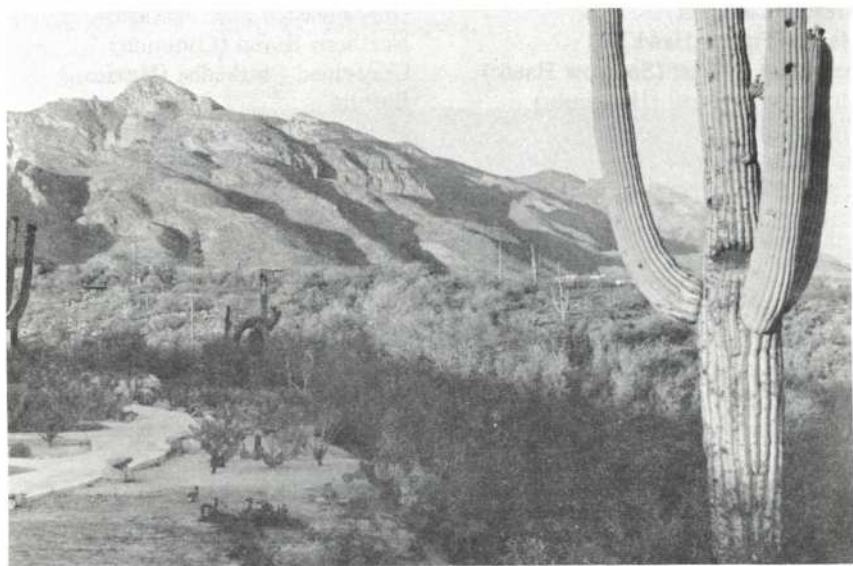
NEW NAMES

The American Ornithological Union has recently published a supplement to its **Checklist of North American Birds**. This new supplement changes many of the bird names now in use, and future supplements will change even more. In fact, they will probably change some of the changes. As if this were not confusion enough, three new books on the birds of Mexico have recently been published, and each one uses a different set of names for those species that also occur in the United States. The new names from the A.O.U. supplement and from **A Field Guide to Mexican Birds** by Peterson and Chalif are listed below.

Neotropical Cormorant (Olivaceous)	Common Flicker (Gilded, Red-shafted, and Yellow-shafted)
Great Egret (Common)	Brown-backed Woodpecker (Arizona)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Brown-crested Flycatcher (Wied's)
American Wigeon	Dusky-capped Flycatcher (Olivaceous)
Northern Shoveler	Willow Flycatcher (Traill's)
Bay-winged Hawk (Harris')	Greater Pewee (Coues' Flycatcher)
Common Black Hawk	Western Pewee
Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk)	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet
Crested Caracara	Gray-breasted Jay (Mexican)
Merlin (Pigeon Hawk)	Northern Raven (Common)
American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)	Gray-sided Chickadee (Mexican)
Montezuma Quail (Harlequin)	Bushtit
Wild Turkey	Marsh Wren (Long-billed)
American Coot	Northern Mockingbird
Upland Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Little Tern (Least)	American Robin
Greater Roadrunner	European Starling
Common Screech-owl	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's and Myrtle)
Whiskered Screech-owl	Streaked-backed Oriole (Scarlet-headed)
Flammulated Screech-owl	Northern Oriole (Baltimore and Bullock's)
Northern Pygmy-owl	Red Cardinal
Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	Dark-backed Goldfinch (Lesser)
Buff-collared Nightjar (Ridgeway's Whip-poor-will)	Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged, Slate-colored, and Oregon)
Common Poorwill	Yellow-eyed Junco (Mexican)
Bumblebee Hummingbird (Heloise's)	Whistling Duck (Tree Duck)
Magnificent Hummingbird (Rivoli's)	
Elegant Trogan (Coppery-tailed)	



Tucson and Vicinity



Foothills near Tucson

THE DESERT MUSEUM LOOP

(38.0 miles, one half-day)

This trip crosses Tucson Mountain Park and the western section of the Saguaro (Sah-WHA-row) National Monument. It affords an opportunity to study the typical desert birds and vegetation. The highlight of the trip is the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum with its excellent collection of plants and animals that are native to the Sonoran Desert.

The starting point is the corner of North Stone Avenue and Speedway Boulevard in Tucson. Check the little park here first for Inca Doves and Great-tailed Grackles, then drive west on Speedway. Shortly after going under the freeway (I-10), you will cross the Santa Cruz River, which is the major source of water for the entire area. Its surface flow is usually unimpressive, but it can be a raging torrent after a summer storm.

Continue straight west until Speedway merges with Gates Pass Road (5.3 miles), then follow that over the pass and down into Tucson Mountain Park. This may not match your image of a mountain park, but it contains an excellent example of desert vegetation. The plant life is surprisingly lush and varied. Wait until you reach the museum, where the plants are labeled, before trying to key out the bushes.

In the early morning, this road abounds with birds, but in the heat of the afternoon sun, not a single bird may be visible. The permanent residents are Gambel's Quail, White-winged Dove, Roadrunner, Flicker (Gilded), Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Cactus and Rock Wrens, Curve-billed Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Brown-headed and Bronzed Cowbirds, House Finch, Brown Towhee, and Black-throated Sparrow. In summer, watch for Elf Owl (night), Lesser Nighthawk (evening), Brown-crested and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Purple Martin, and Scott's Oriole. In winter, look for Sage Thrasher, Flicker (Red-shafted), and Brewer's and White-crowned Sparrows.

One of the more spectacular birds of the desert is the tiny Costa's Hummingbird. Like many other birds, it has adapted to desert living by nesting early in the spring. It arrives in February, nests during the peak of the flowering season in March and April, and leaves well before the hot summer arrives.

Some of the mammals to be found are Spotted and Striped Skunks (night); Kit Fox (night); Coyote; Rock, Antelope, and Round-tailed Ground Squirrels; Black-tailed Jackrabbit; Desert Cottontail; and Mule Deer.

Descending from the pass, the road passes a cluster of buildings on the left. This is Old Tucson, a movie set that has been converted into a tourist

trap. Beyond this, Gates Pass Road ends at Kinney Road. Turn right toward the Desert Museum. After a half-mile, you will pass the turnoff to the Gilbert Ray Campground (\$1.00 per night). This is a great place to camp except in midwinter, when it is overflowing with "snowbirds." Another 2.0 miles brings you to the museum (open 9:00 a.m. to sunset) (\$3.00 for adults, \$1.25 from 12 to 17, free under 12) (13.0 miles from Tucson).

The word museum hardly describes the **Desert Museum**. It is not a dusty assortment of artifacts and stuffed animals, but an outstanding collection of the living desert. Nearly everything on exhibit is alive and native to the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and Mexico. Another unique thing about this combination zoo, arboretum, research station, etc., is that it is entirely owned and financed by the private Desert Museum Association, whose members have devotedly labored for years to keep it going.

Learning about the native flora and fauna is easy here because the collection of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and even insects is extensive. Birders really have a field day. Not only are there lots of caged birds, but also numerous wild ones, particularly at the feeding trays.

The western section of the **Saguaro National Monument** is 2.0 miles beyond the museum. Stop at the visitors' center to look at the exhibits and to study the map showing the roads and trails in the park. You will also find a good selection of books dealing with the local natural history. Be sure to look out the window at the little water hole, where Gambel's Quail and other birds come to drink.

This part of the park was acquired to protect one of the best stands of saguaros in the state. Three miles past the visitors' center there is a dense "forest" that averages 15,000 to 20,000 saguaros per square mile. This is also a fine area for other plants and for birds, especially during the peak of the flowering and nesting season in April. The birds are less disturbed here than in Tucson Mountain Park because the average tourist seldom gets past the Desert Museum.

Reptiles are also common in the park. The ones most commonly seen are lizards such as the Collared, Leopard, Side-blotched, Regal Horned, Desert Spiny, Western Whiptail, and the dainty little Zebra-tailed, which usually runs down the road waving its tail in the air. Most desert snakes are nocturnal. If you drive these roads at night, particularly after a rain, you may see such snakes as the Desert Patch-nosed, Glossy, Long-nosed, Saddle Leaf-nosed, Spotted Leaf-nosed, Banded Sand, Sidewinder, or Western and Tiger Rattlesnakes. However, the snake most often seen is the harmless and very beneficial Gopher Snake.

Continue past the visitors' center on the dirt road for 1.7 miles and turn right on the Bajada Loop Drive. After 2.3 miles, turn right on Ward Road toward Tucson. Follow this for 6.3 miles until it turns sharply to the left, then continue straight on Ina Road. After a half-mile, you will pass the

entrances to the Wild Horse Ranch and the Sahuaro Vista Ranch, both deluxe guest ranches that cater to birders.

Another mile will bring you to Silverbell Road, which parallels the Santa Cruz River. Much of the mesquite thicket along the river has been cleared, but there are still a few dense patches where Abert's Towhees can be found. Bendire's Thrashers also occur here. They prefer the more open areas with low bushes. A good area to find them is the three-mile stretch along Silverbell Road north of Ina Road and south of Cortaro Road.

To follow the tour, turn right - south - on Silverbell Road toward Tucson. At El Camino del Cerro (4.0 miles), turn left and cross the river. On the right, you will see an embankment, which surrounds the **Tucson Sewage Ponds**. Just ahead on the left is a horse corral, opposite which is a dirt road that goes around the levees of the ponds.

Sewage ponds everywhere attract birds, but in the desert they are really oases. In winter and migration, these ponds have an assortment of ducks and shorebirds. Check the surrounding bushes for Gambel's Quail, Bendire's Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, and migrants.

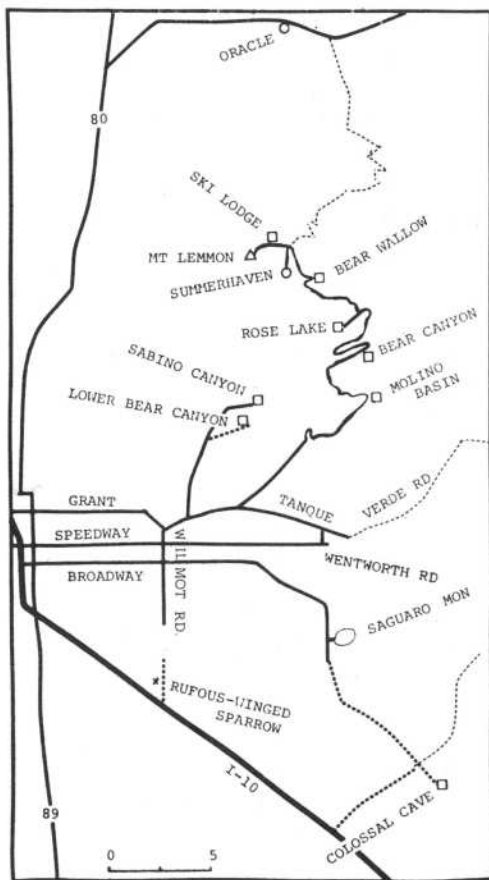
There are other ponds around the buildings to the south. To reach them, go east a block to the freeway, and turn right on the frontage road. At the first crossroad turn right and angle back to the sewage plant. To get back to Tucson (4.2 miles), continue south on the freeway.

If you wish to visit another good area for waterbirds, take the freeway north to Picacho (Pea-CHAH-cho) (46.0 miles north of Tucson). A mile north of town, turn right on Highway 87 toward Coolidge. Follow this for 9.3 miles and turn right on the Selma Highway. In spite of the fancy name, this is only a dirt road and easy to miss. You should also watch for a big water-filled canal, which goes under Highway 87 at this point. After turning right on the Selma Highway, you will soon cross the canal, but continue on until you cross some railroad tracks. Turn right on a dirt road along the tracks and then take the road along the top of the levee of the canal. This will lead you to the embankment around the **Picacho Reservoir** (1.3 miles). Turn left on a little dirt road along the base of the embankment and follow it until you can drive up onto the dam. From here you can overlook the water. This reservoir attracts the usual ducks and shorebirds, but also Great Blue and Green Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, White-faced Ibis, and sometimes other waders. During the summer of 1973, there was a large flock of Roseate Spoonbills here.

Camping facilities are available at Gilbert Ray Campground in Tucson Mountain Park. Motels and hotels are abundant in Tucson, particularly along I-10 and in the "motel row" along Miracle Mile. The deluxe Wild Horse Ranch Club (Box 5505, Tucson, AZ 85703 - phone 602 297-2266) caters to birders, as does the Sahuaro Vista Guest Ranch (Route 9, Box 554, Tucson, AZ 85704 - phone 602 297-0502).

THE CATALINA MOUNTAINS LOOP

(115.0 miles, two days)



The road from Tucson (2389 feet) up the side of the Santa Catalina Mountains to the top of Mount Lemmon (9185 feet) is one of the most spectacular in the country. The birder will not only be impressed by the magnificent scenery and the sweeping vistas, but also by the diversity of plants and animals. The road crosses four very different life zones. Plantwise and birdwise, the 42-mile trip up the mountain is like going from Mexico to Canada.

The starting point is the intersection of North Stone Avenue and Speedway Boulevard in Tucson. Go east on Speedway to Wilmot Road (6.6 miles). If you are in a hurry, you can turn left, go 4 blocks and bear right with the main road, which becomes Tanque Verde Road. After 1.2 miles on this road, you can turn left on Sabino (Sah-BEE-no)

Canyon Road and continue for 4.5 miles to the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area.

If you have plenty of time, you may want to check out the residential area along Tanque Verde Wash before going up Sabino Canyon. To do so, continue straight on Speedway past Wilmot Road. After passing Houghton Road (4.0 miles) start watching the brushy roadsides for Rufous-winged Sparrows and Black-tailed Gnatcatchers. At Wentworth Road (3.0 miles), turn left. Where this small dirt road crosses the stream, there is an irrigated pasture, which is very good for Abert's Towhee, Phainopepla, and Vermilion Flycatcher. Turn left on Redington Road, which becomes Tanque Verde Road (1.0 mile), and go west for 7.3 miles to the Sabino Canyon Road.

At the entrance to the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area (4.5 miles), stop at the visitors' center (open October to May). Here you can look at the exhibits, study the map showing the roads and trails, and ask for a checklist of the birds. There is also a nature trail with labeled plants.

Sabino Canyon is a picturesque spot where saguaros mingle with Fremont's Cottonwoods against a backdrop of towering cliffs, rocky mountains, and a beautiful little stream. In this fascinating setting, you can find numerous birds. However, it is wise to visit during the week. On the weekend, you may have to share the canyon with 30,000 other people.

Some of the birds to watch for are Gambel's Quail; White-winged Dove; Roadrunner; White-throated Swift; Flicker (Gilded); Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; Black and Say's Phoebe; Vermilion Flycatcher; Beardless Tyrannulet; Verdin; Cactus, Canyon, and Rock Wrens; Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers; Black-tailed Gnatcatcher; Phainopepla; Bronzed Cowbird; House Finch; Dark-backed Goldfinch; and Black-throated Sparrow.

In summer watch for Elf Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds; Brown-crested and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, and Hooded and Scott's Orioles. In winter sparrows are numerous, including the Black-chinned.

The willow thickets above the dam at the picnic area in Lower Bear Canyon are great for migrants, Dark-backed Goldfinch, Abert's Towhee, Desert Spiny Lizard, and Western Whiptail. Get there early. This is a popular spot.

Return to Tanque Verde Road and turn left. After 2.3 miles, bear left on the Hitchcock Highway (Catalina Highway). Tanque Verde Road continues straight ahead and eventually becomes a dirt road as it snakes its way over the Rincon Mountains to Redington on the San Pedro River. Although rough and dusty, this is an interesting trip.

Following the Hitchcock Highway across the desert toward the mountains, you are in the Lower Sonoran Life Zone. Cacti are the principal plant indicators of this zone, although there are others such as Palo Verde, Creosote Bush, Desert Broom, and Mormon Tea.

Some of the typical birds that are more or less restricted to this zone are Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Abert's Towhee, and Black-throated Sparrow.

Molino Basin (4300 feet) (10.5 miles) is in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, characterized here by evergreen oaks, Mexican Pinyon Pine, and evergreen chaparral. The predominant oaks are Emory Oak, with dark leaves and bark, and Mexican Blue Oak, with light bark and blue-green leaves.

Silverleaf Oak, with leaves that are dark above and light below, becomes common at higher elevations. The outstanding plants of the chaparral are Alligator Juniper, Mountain Mahogany, and the red-barked Point-leaf and Pringle's Manzanitas.

Stop at the campground and look for such typical birds as Acorn and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Scrub and Gray-breasted Jays, Bridled Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Hutton's Vireo, Brown Towhee, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Gray Vireos can sometimes be found, particularly in patches of junipers.

Beyond the campground, the road passes dry hillsides on which some large and showy members of the lily family grow. These are of several different genera: sotol, yucca, nolina, and agave. All are similar in having a cluster of basal leaves and a tall flowering stalk. The largest is one of the agaves or "century plants." Its broad, fat leaves grow in a compact rosette and its large, bell-shaped, yellow flowers are borne on 15-foot stalks. The showiest is the sotol, with its huge clusters of tiny white flowers on a 10-foot stalk.

These lilies are not only showy but also useful. Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and orioles are attracted by the flowers. The fruit and the cabbage-like heart of the leaf rosette are used as food for people and cattle. In Mexico, the roots of the yucca are used to make soap and the leaves to weave baskets. The leaves of an agave are the source of sisal from which ropes and mats are made. Economically, the most important products are alcoholic beverages. Sotol and several of the agaves are used in making such potent drinks as sotol, mezcal, pulque, and tequila.

Along the stream at Bear Canyon (5.8 miles from Molino Basin), there is a stand of Arizona Cypress and the first Ponderosa Pines. At Windy Point (2.7 miles), an excellent panorama of the desert far below can be obtained.

At 7,000 feet elevation (2.0 miles), Ponderosa Pines, the principal indicator of the Transition Life Zone, are common and will be the rest of the way up the mountain. Some birds of this zone are Goshawk, Turkey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Olive Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, and Gray-headed and Yellow-eyed Juncos. In summer, look for Zone-tailed Hawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Greater Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Painted Redstart, and Virginia's (in brush), Yellow-rumped, and Grace's Warblers.

There are three summer (April to November) campgrounds in this area. Rose Canyon is often the best for birding because of the open forest and the tiny lake. If you look hard enough, Olive Warblers can be found here, even in winter. Also watch in winter for Williamson's Sapsuckers and Cassin's Finches.

The introduced Tassel-eared or Abert's Squirrel, Cliff Chipmunk, and Rock Squirrel occur around this campground.

Around the Spencer Canyon and Bear Wallow Campgrounds (8000 feet), you will find the forest composed of Ponderosa and White Pines, Douglas Fir, and an occasional Engelmann Spruce. The life zone concept is difficult to apply here. The Ponderosa Pine is indicative of the Transition; the Douglas Fir and White Pine, of the Canadian; and the Engelmann Spruce, of the Hudsonian. It is little wonder that many biologists refer to this as simply a mixed-conifer community.

To the birder, it makes little difference, as the birds are about the same as those found in the Transition Zone. However, in summer, the Hermit Thrush is more common in these moister areas. Its beautiful song announces the dawn and ends the day at these two campgrounds. The Spotted Owl is also found regularly in this area. It prefers wooded canyons that have streams and often roosts in dense patches of young conifers. It does not occur in spots where there are Great Horned Owls.

Farther up the mountain, White Pine, Douglas Fir, White Fir, and Quaking Aspen become more common. Here, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Olive Warbler, and Warbling Vireo are easier to find. Sometimes, Evening Grosbeaks feed in the stands of Box Elder.

Turn right at Ski Valley Road (2.5 miles). Beyond the lodge (snacks only), the road continues on to the very top of Mount Lemmon (8193 feet) (1.3 miles). This short road offers some of the best birding on the mountain. About half-way up there is a stand of Engelmann's Spruce, where Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Western Flycatcher, and Pine Siskin nest. Near the top you may find Red-faced and Olive Warblers, Mountain Bluebird, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Gas, sandwiches, and lodgings of sorts are available at Summerhaven. Check the cabins beyond the stores for feeders, where Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Steller's Jay, and Black-headed Grosbeak are common. Also watch for Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, and Tassel-eared Squirrel.

If you do not wish to retrace your route all the way back down the mountain, you can take the Oracle Road, which begins just below the Ski Valley Road. This 28-mile road is dirt, rough, and seemingly endless. It is the type of road that you take only once, but it is an interesting trip.

Time permitting, you may want to visit the eastern section of the Saguaro National Monument. The easiest way of finding it is to return to Speedway Boulevard and Wilmot Road. Go south on Wilmot and turn left on Broadway. At the Old Spanish Trail, turn right and follow the signs to the monument.

When the monument was created, the stand of saguaros here was the most impressive around. However, old age, freezing weather, and disease have taken a heavy toll. In addition, insufficient rainfall and a policy (since changed) of allowing grazing in the park have prevented the propagation of young plants. Thus, there has been a general decline in the giant cactus. In spite of these adversities, the remaining saguaros are still magnificent and make a visit to the monument well worthwhile.

Stop at the visitors' center to check the exhibits and to ask for a bird list. After that, drive the loop road through the lower part of the park. The desert vegetation is outstanding here, but the birds are about the same as in Sabino Canyon or along the lower part of the Hitchcock Highway. You are not likely to find anything new. If you have plenty of time and stamina, try the trails into the upper part of the park along the rim of the Rincon Mountains. The scenery is terrific, and the birding is much better.

There are numerous motels and hotels in Tucson.

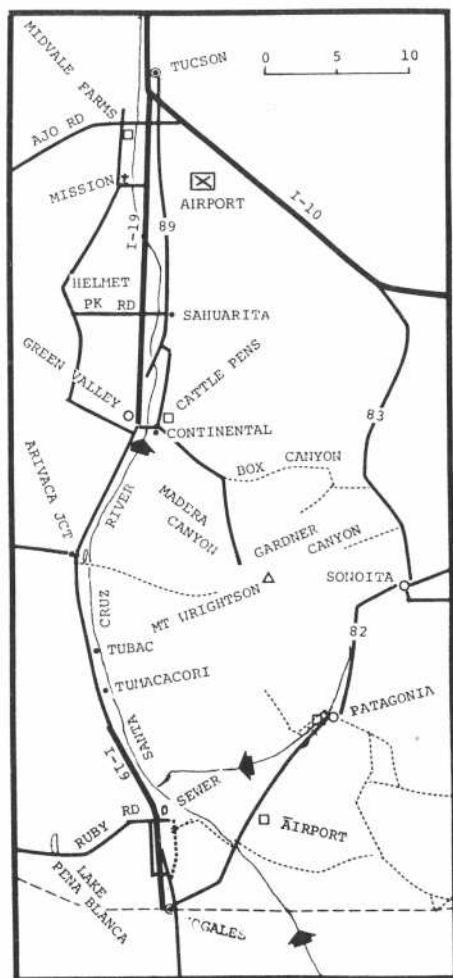
The U.S. Forestry Service maintains five campgrounds in the Mount Lemmon Area. Rose Canyon, Spencer Canyon, and Bear Wallow are all summer (April to November) campgrounds above 7000 feet. The ones in Molino Basin (4500 feet) and in Lower Bear Canyon (3000 feet) (by Sabino Canyon) are all-year campgrounds. There is also an all-year campground (\$1.00 per night) maintained by Pima County at the Colossal Cave. It can be reached by continuing south on the Old Spanish Trail past the Saguaro National Monument.



Pine Forests on Mt. Lemmon

NOGALES AND PATAGONIA LOOP

(137.0 miles, one long day)



This tour makes a loop around the Santa Rita Mountains. It goes south from Tucson up the Santa Cruz River Valley to the outskirts of Nogales, then northeast along Sonoita (So-KNOWY-tah) Creek to Patagonia. From here, it circles through the high grasslands east of the mountains and drops back to the desert at Tucson. Many birding spots are found along the way, but the most outstanding is the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary at Patagonia.

From the starting point at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Congress Avenue in Tucson, go south on the freeway for 1.7 miles and bear right on Interstate 19 toward Nogales. After 1.2 miles, you will come to Ajo (AH-ho) Road, which goes west to the Organ Pipe National Monument (120 miles). If you plan to go to California, this scenic route across the Papago Indian Reservation is an attractive alternative to the freeways.

Just off Ajo Road are the **Midvale Farms**. During the winter and migration, warblers, flycatchers, and sparrows frequent

the pecan groves. To reach them, go west on Ajo Road for .2 mile, cross the Santa Cruz River, and turn left on Valley Road. Follow this for 2.0 miles to Drexel Road, which crosses the farms.

As you continue down the freeway, do not stop for birds or you will get a ticket. The birding is not very good anyway, so look at the scenery or at what the white man is doing to it. One of the earliest signs of the white man will soon come into view on the right, the white towers of the San Xavier (sah-nah-VEER) Mission (founded by Father Kino in 1700).

The vegetation around the mission is rather sparse, but it still supports Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pyrrhuloxia, and the very rare Jaguarundi. Most of the thrashers are Curve-billed, but the Bendire's has been found along the road running south from the front of the mission. With a lot of practice, you can separate the Bendire's by its smaller size, thinner and less-decurved bill, and yellower eye.

Farther along and in the far distance on the right, you will see the shiny dome of the Kitt Peak Observatory. On the left, along the river, are irrigated farms where once grew a forest of giant mesquite trees. For a preview of future changes, look ahead on the right at the huge and barren piles of tailings from a copper mine. Many sections of the West will soon look like this as the strip-miners lay bare the earth in search of coal, copper, and other ores.

Leave the freeway at Helmet Peak Road (15.0 miles beyond Ajo Road), and go left 2.3 miles to Sahuarita (Sah-wah-RE-tah). Turn right on Highway 89 and go another 2.0 miles. When the highway curves right, bear left past the rest area and continue straight on the **Continental Road** toward Madera Canyon.

Along this road, there are pecan and pistachio groves. When the trees are bare in winter, you may find Western Meadowlark; House Finch; Lark Bunting; Dark-eyed Junco; Savannah, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Brewer's, and White-crowned Sparrows; Mountain Bluebird; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds; Lazuli Bunting; American, Dark-backed, and Lawrence's Goldfinches; and, occasionally, longspurs.

Farther along, the roadsides have more patches of mesquite and weeds. These attract Ground Dove, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Bendire's (rare) and Curve-billed Thrashers, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Cardinal, and Pyrrhuloxia. In summer, look for Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and, in winter, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

During the development of the West, the miners, ranchers, and other settlers were largely dependent upon small country stores for supplies. As often as not, these remote but vital businesses were owned by Chinese immigrants, a fact usually overlooked by Hollywood. Most of these rural, Chinese-owned stores have disappeared, but there is still one at Continental. In fact, that is about all there is at Continental.

Mr. Tang A. Ling, the owner, has recently replaced the dilapidated but historical old store with a modern superette; however, he still renders the same old-fashioned services. In addition to groceries, sundries, gas, and ice, he sells the best thick-sliced bacon. It smells great cooking over a campfire and tastes even better.

The road to Madera Canyon Recreation Area (page 34) goes left past the store, but to continue the tour, turn right with the highway. At the freeway (1.2) miles, turn left toward Nogales.

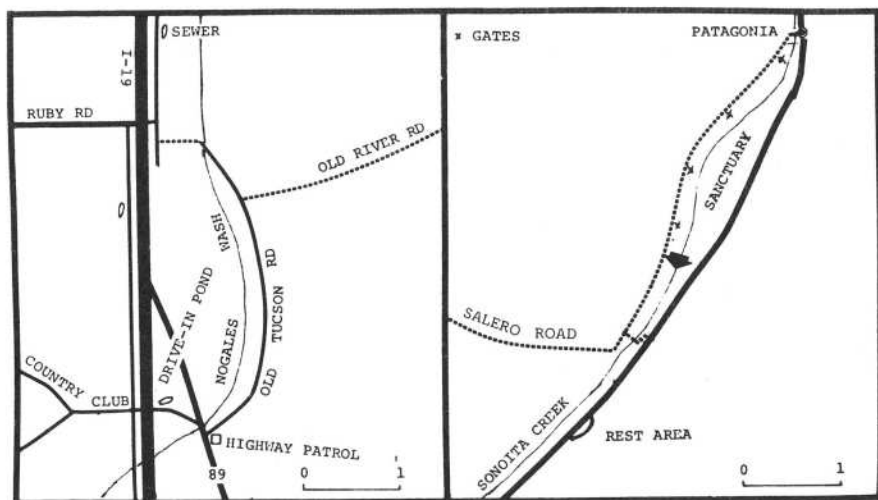
The **Kinsley Lakes** (9.3 miles) at Arivaca Junction usually harbor a few Coots, Pied-billed and Eared Grebes, and ducks in winter. At any season, you will find a multitude of Great-tailed Grackles. In summer, Vermilion Flycatchers and occasionally a pair of Tropical Kingbirds nest on the back side of the lake, where they are less disturbed.

Some 8 miles beyond Arivaca Junction, you will enter an area of historic and artistic interest. First, there is Tubac, which was a presidio in 1752. Arizona's first newspaper was printed here in 1858 by William Wrightson, for whom the mountain was named. The Tumacacori National Monument is some 3 miles farther.

Santa Gertrudis Lane is on the left .3 mile beyond the monument. Where this little road crosses the river, there are irrigated fields, brushy roadsides, and large trees.

It is a good spot to find Tropical Kingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Phainopepla, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Northern Oriole, Summer Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Dark-backed Goldfinch, and Lark and Rufous-winged Sparrows.

Rancho Santa Cruz (Box 8, Tumacacori, AZ 85640 - phone 602 398-2261 - October 15th to May 1st) is about 2 miles beyond the monument. This deluxe guest ranch, which caters to birders, is located in a choice birding area along the river and within easy driving distance of several others.



Leave Interstate 19 at Ruby Road (Highway 289) (11.0 miles from the monument) and cross over to the frontage road along the east side. Turn left - north - and go 1.0 mile to a group of warehouses. Watch between the buildings for a small road marked "Waste Water Plant." This leads to the sewage plant. Ask at the office for permission to bird around the ponds, where there are usually a few ducks and shorebirds.

Return to Ruby Road and cross back to the west side. The Peña Blanca Lake Loop (page 40) starts here, but to continue the present tour, turn left - south - along the frontage road. Watch on the right for a small pond (1.5 miles), where you can often find a few ducks and a Vermilion Flycatcher. Continue on for another 1.5 miles to the stop sign at Country Club Road. Turn left and park under the freeway. By crawling around the end of the fence, you can reach a path along the flood-control ditch. This leads to the **Drive-in Theater Pond**, where you may find Black-bellied Tree Ducks, Vermilion Flycatchers, Black Phoebe, and in summer, Tropical Kingbirds.

Continue east from the freeway until you reach Highway 89 (.5 mile), then turn right. If you wish to visit Nogales, follow the highway for 8.0 miles. There are numerous motels and restaurants in town, and it is easy to cross the border and visit Mexico. If you do not wish to go to Nogales, go 2 blocks and turn left on the Old Tucson Road. This will take you back to the north along the Nogales Wash.

After 2.3 miles, watch on the right for the dirt, unmarked Old River Road. (If you miss it, you will return to the freeway near Ruby Road. Go back .7 mile.) This goes over the railroad tracks and then east for 6.6 miles along the Santa Cruz River to Highway 82. This area looks better for birds than it usually is.

Turn left on Highway 82, which comes up from Nogales. The brushy grasslands near the buildings of the **Nogales Airport** (2.0 miles) are good for Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows in summer and for Montezuma Quail in winter.

Lake Patagonia State Park (4.0 miles) (\$1.00) should be checked for cormorants, ducks, and shorebirds. The area below the dam may have Rose-throated Becard, Thick-billed Kingbird, and Black-capped Gnatcatcher (one record). Rock Wrens are common.

The **Circle Z Ranch** (Patagonia, AZ 85624 - phone 602 287-2091) caters to both individual birders and groups as **guests**. The main attraction is the lush stands of sycamore and cottonwood along Sonoita Creek, which is a birder's paradise. This is the principal nesting area in Arizona for the Rose-throated Becard and Five-striped Sparrow. The ranch property is open to guests only, but lower rates are offered in the good birding periods of late April and early May.

Just beyond the ranch is one of the most famous roadside rest areas in the birding world! Several first records for the United States occurred here. But alas, the Highway Department has "improved" the area by widening the road and cutting down most of the trees. It is still worthwhile to walk along the road in search of Gray Hawk, White-winged Dove, Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds, Rose-throated Becard, Cassin's and Thick-billed Kingbirds, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Beardless Tyrannulet, Phainopepla, Bell's Vireo, Hooded and Northern Orioles, and Summer Tanager. **The Circle Z Ranch across the road is not open to the public.**

In the arid brush on the hillside, you may find Varied Buntings as well as Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Lucy's Warblers, Pyrrhuloxias, Dark-backed Goldfinches, and Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. A few lucky people have seen the Five-striped Sparrow here, but this rare bird is most often found on the far hillside across the highway and beyond the creek. A pair of nesting Black-capped Gnatcatchers was also found in that area in 1971.

From the rest area, continue on for a mile and turn left on Salero Road, which doubles back sharply along the highway and then fords the stream. When the road forks (.2 mile), take the right fork toward Patagonia (3.0 miles). You will soon come to the fence around the **Patagonia - Sonoita Creek Sanctuary**, one of the best birding spots in Arizona. There are 4 walk-in gates, and you should try each one.

In their typical fashion, Nature Conservancy stepped in at the last minute and saved this magnificent area from the developers. Thanks to this great organization, we still have weedy fields, mesquite thickets, and extensive stands of willows and Fremont's Cottonwood instead of houses, golf courses, and polo fields. As you wade in the cool, clear waters of Sonoita Creek, or sit in the shade of a huge old tree, remember that there is still a need for money to pay for patrolling and cleaning. (Nature Conservancy, Box 4157, University Station, Tucson, Arizona.)

This lush oasis attracts an abundance of birds at all seasons, including many rare and exotic species. The flashiest one has to be the Vermilion Flycatcher, and it is more abundant here than any other place in the country. The Rose-throated Becard sometimes nests in the very tall cottonwoods at the north end of the refuge, but is more common in the sycamores near the rest area. Other birds to look for are Gambel's and Montezuma Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; Ground Dove; Roadrunner; Common Screech-owl; Great Horned Owl; Gila, Acorn, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; Black and Say's Phoebe; Gray-breasted Jay; Bridled Titmouse; Verdin; Bushtit, Bewick's Wren; Phainopepla; Bronzed Cowbird; and Brown Towhee.

In summer, watch for White-winged Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Elf Owl; Poor-will; Lesser Nighthawk; Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds; Cassin's, Western, and Thick-billed Kingbirds; Brown-crested, Ash-throated, and Willow Flycatchers; Beardless Tyrannulet; Bell's Vireo; Lucy's Warbler (mesquite); Hooded and Northern Orioles; Summer Tanager; Blue Grosbeak; Varied (rare) and Indigo (rare) Buntings; and Dark-backed Goldfinch.

In winter, look for Yellow-bellied and Williamson's (rare) Sapsuckers; Western Bluebird; Lawrence's Goldfinch (rare); Green-tailed Towhee; Dark-eyed, Gray-headed, and Yellow-eyed (rare) Juncos; and White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows. In migration, expect almost anything.

Some of the animals to be found are Raccoon; Coati; Ring-tailed Cat; Spotted, Striped, Hooded, and Hog-nosed Skunks; Gray Fox; Coyote; Bobcat; Rock Squirrel; Harris' Antelope Squirrel; Arizona Gray Squirrel; Antelope and Black-tailed Jackrabbits; Desert Cottontail; Peccary; and White-tailed Deer.

Gas, groceries, and other services are available in the little town of Patagonia. The very modern Stage Stop Motel (Box 777, Patagonia, AZ 85624 - phone 602 394-2211) has nice rooms and an excellent restaurant.

Continuing on Highway 82 past Patagonia, you will soon climb into the grasslands, which turn lush green in July and August. At the site of old Camp Crittenden (9.3 miles), you will pass a natural dividing line between east and west. To the east of this point, Eastern Meadowlarks and White-necked Ravens are common; to the west, Western Meadowlarks and Northern Ravens are more common.

The little settlement of Sonoita (2.9 miles) is in the heart of the grasslands. A more extensive tour of this habitat can be taken by turning south and driving some of the numerous roads leading into the San Rafael Valley. Here Eastern Meadowlark, Loggerhead Shrike, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, and Grasshopper Sparrow are common all year. Swainson's Hawks are common in summer, and you may also see a Golden Eagle and a Prairie Falcon.

This area is at its best in winter, when there are vast flocks of sparrows and longspurs and numerous hawks. Most of the sparrows will be Savannah, Vesper, Lark, and Brewer's, but also watch for Cassin's, Clay-colored, and even Baird's. The Chestnut-collared is the most common longspur, although there are always a few McCown's. There are even records of Lapland and Smith's. The hawks will be mostly Red-tailed and Northern Harrier with a sprinkling of Rough-legged and Ferruginous.

To visit the Huachuca Mountains (page 42), continue straight on Highway 82 and turn right on Highway 92 toward Sierra Vista. To visit

Tombstone, stay on Highway 82 and turn right on Highway 80. From Tombstone, you can return to Tucson via Highway 80 and Interstate 10. This will give you a chance to look over the ponds at St. David for Black-bellied Tree Ducks. To follow the present tour, turn left at Sonoita and go north on Highway 83.

Several interesting birds can be found along Highway 83. Scaled Quail often come to feed in the corral by the ranch house about a mile up on the left. Wintering longspurs come to an overflowing water-trough near the windmill on the right. Being nervous birds, longspurs usually make several passes before landing. This behavior allows the birder to get repeated looks at the tail pattern and to get totally confused. In July and August, Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows can be heard singing in the brushy grasslands along the Old Sonoita Highway (2.4 miles), which loops off to the right.

Lower Gardner Canyon, to the left of Highway 83, is usually a good birding spot. The road to it turns off .7 of a mile beyond the south exit of the Old Sonoita Highway Loop. Keep left at the Apache Springs Junction (.7 mile). Just beyond this, you enter the Montezuma Quail Research Area, a good place to find Montezuma Quail and Botteri's Sparrows. The road goes on for miles, but soon becomes very rough and rocky.

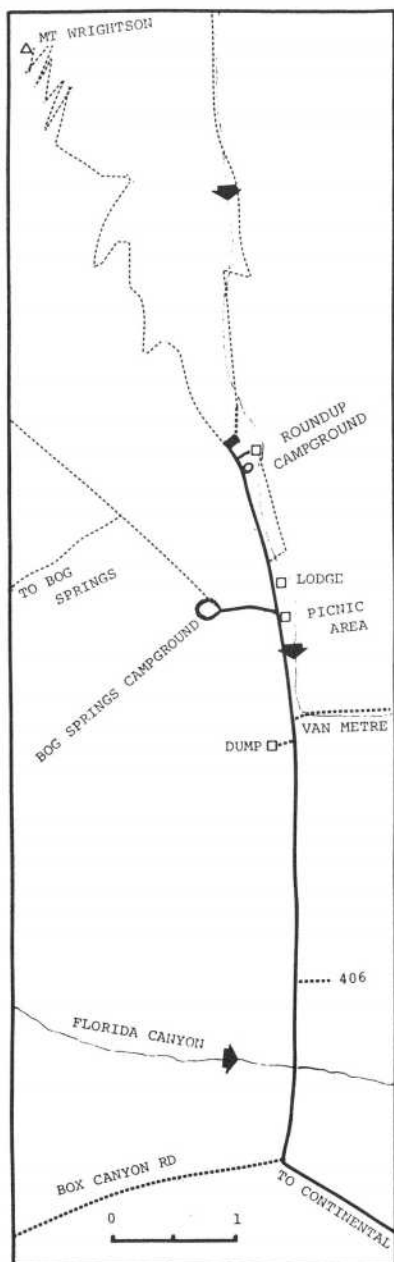
At the Greaterville Road (4.0 miles), you have a choice as to how to end this tour. You can go straight ahead on Highway 83 and then take Interstate 10 back to Tucson (30.0 miles) or turn left and go through Box Canyon to Continental (21.0 miles). If you plan to visit Madera Canyon, take the Continental Road, unless you have a trailer. This dirt road is narrow and steep in places.

There are no campgrounds on this loop. The closest ones are at Pena Blanca Lake, Parker Canyon Lake, or in Madera Canyon.

There are numerous motels in Tucson and Nogales. The very modern Stage Stop Motel (Box 777, Patagonia, AZ 85624 - phone 602 394-2211) is only a half-mile from the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.

MADERA CANYON

(25.0 miles, 2 days)



Madera Canyon is the best-known and most frequently-visited birding spot in Arizona, and with good reason. You can find most of the birds of Southeastern Arizona in a 10-mile distance. If you do not have time to visit any other place, stay in Madera Canyon.

The starting point is Continental. Take the road to the left of the store and cross over the railroad tracks. For the next 7 miles, you will be passing through an excellent stand of grass and cactus on the U.S. Forestry Experimental Range.

This giant cactus garden contains a number of species. The purple cactus with the large, flat "leaves" is Santa Rita Prickly Pear. The purple one with the small, round stems is Staghorn Cholla (CHO-yah). The abundant, large, green cholla with the chains of fruit is usually called Jumping Cholla.

It is rumored that the joints of the Jumping Cholla can actually jump out and attach themselves as you pass. This is not true, but it is hard to convince some people, such as Guy McCaskie. On his first trip to Arizona, Guy, who had never seen a cactus in his native Scotland, saw a bird go into a stand of cholla. He plunged right in after it and spent the next year picking out spines.

Some of the birds to watch for in this desert grassland are Turkey and Black (rare) Vultures, Gambel's Quail, Roadrunner, Say's Phoebe, Cactus Wren, Curve-Billed Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and House

Finch. In winter, Lark Buntings and sparrows are abundant. The first U.S. record of the Five-striped Sparrow was found here. It has not been seen in this area since.

The rare Antelope Jackrabbit, whose range barely extends into the United States, can sometimes be found here. It is larger and whiter than the more common Black-tailed Jackrabbit and has a habit of turning up the white of its belly as it runs. In addition to the rabbits, you should see an Antelope Squirrel. It looks like a chipmunk with a white flag for a tail.

At the junction of the Box Canyon Road (7.0 miles), turn right toward the mountains. You will soon come to two small bridges. The second one (.8 mile) crosses Florida (Flow-REE-dah) Canyon. A walk down this shallow wash should produce Scaled Quail, Verdin, Crissal Thrasher, Phainopepla, Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Brown Towhee, and Black-throated Sparrow. In summer, look for Black-chinned and Costa's (spring) Hummingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, and Lucy's Warbler. The best bird to be found in the canyon is the Rufous-winged Sparrow.

The rufous on the wing is hard to see on most Rufous-winged Sparrows. The overall light coloring, clear white breast, rufous crown with a light center, and the white wing-bars are usually better field marks. The loud, clear song is very distinctive, and luckily, the bird sings a lot. The song consists of one or two opening notes followed by a trill.

The only other sparrows in this area in summer are the Black-throated and occasionally the Rufous-crowned, which is usually found higher in the mountains. The latter is quite similar to the Rufous-winged, but it has fainter wing-bars, a solid rufous crown, and is darker, particularly on the breast. In winter, there are a number of other sparrows. The Brewer's and the immature White-crowned are the ones most likely to be confused with the Rufous-winged.

The Crissal Thrasher is most often found in the denser patches of mesquite right along the stream bed. The bright rufous undertail coverts are its best mark, but be sure to see the bill. The Brown Towhee also has bright rufous coverts.

The hummingbirds are most common on the hillside above the wash, where there is a stand of Ocotillo (Oh-co-TEA-yo). When the bright red flowers appear in May and June, they attract numerous Black-chinned and a few Costa's. Even the very rare Lucifer has been found here.

The Botteri's Sparrow occurs in July and August in the brushy grasslands along Road #406, which is .7 of a mile above Florida Canyon. The Cassin's Sparrow is also here, and it is difficult to separate the two except by song. However, the Botteri's is browner, particularly on the tail.

Continuing up the canyon, you will pass two cattle guards (a series of pipes in the road over which the cattle will not pass). On the left a tenth of a mile below the second one, there is a small dirt road leading to the old dump. In the canyon beyond, Scaled Quail can usually be found and sometimes a Montezuma. On the right a tenth of a mile above the cattle guard, you will find **Van Metre Road**, which crosses the stream about a block down. This area can be exceptionally good. Varied Buntings have been found in the mesquite by the corral, and Thick-billed Kingbirds have nested in a large Arizona Sycamore about 200 yards up stream.

Three miles after leaving the desert at Florida Canyon the road has climbed through the grasslands and entered the oak woodlands. From here to the end of the road, you will be in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, which is characterized by the numerous live oaks. There are a number of species of these oaks, but the most common ones are the Emory Oak, with dark bark and leaves; the Mexican Blue Oak, with light bark and blue-green leaves, and the Silverleaf Oak, with leaves that are dark above and white below.

This is a great birding area. Anywhere you stop, you will find something worth watching. Some of the common birds are Turkey Vulture; Golden Eagle; Montezuma Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; White-throated Swift; Flicker (Red-shafted); Acorn, Ladder-backed, and Brown-backed Woodpeckers; Black and Say's Phoebes; Gray-breasted Jay; Northern Raven; Bridled Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Bewick's, Canyon, and Rock Wrens; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Hutton's Vireo; Painted Redstart (along the stream); Brown-headed and Bronzed Cowbirds; House Finch; Rufous-crowned Sparrow; Yellow-eyed Junco; and Chipping Sparrow.

In summer, watch for Zone-tailed Hawk (In the air it looks almost like a Turkey Vulture.); White-winged Dove; Black-chinned, Broad-tailed (The cricket-like trill made by the wings of the male is heard more often than the bird is seen.), Magnificent, Blue-throated, Violet-crowned (rare, late summer), Lucifer (rare), and Broad-billed Hummingbirds; Cassin's and Western Kingbirds; Sulphur-bellied (large sycamores), Brown-crested, Ash-throated, and Dusky-capped Flycatchers; Greater and Western Pewees; Hermit Thrush; Phainopepla; Solitary and Warbling Vireos; Black-throated Gray Warbler; Hooded, Scott's, and Northern Orioles; Western and Hepatic Tanagers; Black-headed Grosbeak; and Dark-backed Goldfinch. In winter, look for Dark-eyed and Gray-headed Juncos.

At night listen for Great Horned, Elf (summer), Spotted, and Long-eared Owls; Western, Whiskered, and Flammulated Screech-owls; Whip-poor-will (summer); Poor-will; Common and Lesser Nighthawks (summer), and people with tape-recorders. This is a perfect place to use your recorder. For years, an Elf Owl has nested in a telephone pole in front of the Santa Rita Lodge, where owl-watching is a nightly ritual.

The **Madera Picnic Grounds** (on the right a mile past the Van Metre Road) are a delightful place to eat, although you may have to share your meal with the Acorn and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Gray-breasted Jay, and Bridled Titmouse. In summer, you should also see Cassin's Kingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Western Pewee, Hepatic Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak. The huge sycamore over the lower tables usually hosts a pair of nesting Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, which can easily be located by their high-pitched, squeaky calls. At night, Whip-poor-wills call from the shadows of the live oaks, and Poor-wills from the hillside. Elf Owls call from their holes in the dead snag atop a sycamore at the upper end of the area, and Whiskered Screech-owls call from the live oaks.

A hike downstream from the picnic grounds can be productive in the early morning. The stillness is broken by the chattering of Cassin's Kingbirds in the trees and by the singing of Canyon Tree Frogs from the water. A pair of Black Phoebes often scolds from its nest under the bridge. After crossing the fence, you will find the valley more open. By walking along the higher bank on the east side of the stream, you might flush a Montezuma Quail from the grass. At least you should find a bush with bright red tube-shaped flowers (*Bouvardia*) of which the hummingbirds are very fond.

The west bank of the stream is also productive. Look for Rock and Canyon Wrens along its rocky banks and for Bewick's Wrens and Bushtits in the live oaks. Two very similar flycatchers are found here, the Ash-throated and the Brown-crested.

Separating these two flycatchers seems impossible at first, but eventually becomes fairly easy. The Ash-throated is smaller, less colorful, softer voiced, and usually stays hidden in the brush near the ground. The Brown-crested has stronger colors, a harsh voice, and it seems to prefer tall trees. After you have finally learned to tell these two apart, you can start working on the Dusky-capped Flycatcher, which looks like a small edition of the Ash-throated.

The Bewick's Wren will also give you trouble, because it has many songs. You will chase this bird down many times before you learn all of its tunes. However, it makes a sound as if it were drawing in its breath before any song. After that, anything can follow. After you have mastered the songs of the Bewick's Wren, you can start to work on the songs of the Yellow-eyed Junco, which also has quite a repertoire.

About a half-mile below the picnic area, you will come to the ranger's cabin, where the barking dogs will inform you that it is time to turn back. It is best to return by the road. While walking back, search the sky for hawks and Golden Eagles.

Opposite the picnic ground is the road to the Bog Springs Campground (.5 mile). Due to the lack of water, birding is not particularly good around the camp. However, by putting up feeders, you can attract a few things. For instance, hummingbirds will respond quickly to a sugar-water feeder.

The Bog Springs Trail can be reached from a small dirt road that takes off from the third campsite on the right as you enter the camp. Follow this narrow road for about a mile. At the top of a little rise, watch closely on the left for the well-used but poorly-marked trail that goes another mile to Bog Springs.

Birds to look for here are Turkey, Painted Redstart, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. In the scrub oaks on the dry hillsides, look for Hutton's Vireo, Greater Pewee, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Continuing up the road past the picnic area, you will soon come to the Santa Rita Lodge, which is situated right in the heart of the birding area. Each room not only has a view, but also its own feeder. From the dining-room window, you can watch a wild display of hummingbirds coming to the feeders, as you enjoy a good meal yourself. (The dining room is open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

On the right about .2 of a mile above the lodge, there is a nature trail with labeled plants along the first 200 yards. Beyond that the trail climbs the dry hillside and then goes a mile up stream. From there, you can walk back down the road to your car. The birding is not particularly good along the trail, but you will get a fine view of the valley. The birding is good along the road to the lodge.

The road continues a mile beyond the lodge and ends in a confusing series of little circles. However, you can drive around all of them in about 2 minutes and find that there are two parking lots and the Roundup Campgrounds, the best area to camp in the canyon.

At the lower end of the upper parking lot, you will find the start of the **Mount Wrightson Trail** (7.0 miles). If you have plenty of stamina, this scenic path is great for birding. At first, you will be in the oak belt and the birds will be about the same as those which you have been seeing. The Elegant Trogon has nested in a sycamore along the stream about a mile up. Beyond this, the trail climbs the dry hillsides. Here you can find Hutton's Vireo, Greater Pewee, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and sometimes the Red-faced Warbler. This is about as low as the Red-faced Warbler is found in the nesting season.

If you make it all the way up to the conifers, you should find Steller's Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western Bluebird, Hepatic and Western Tanagers, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Yellow-eyed Junco, and Olive,

Yellow-rumped, Grace's, and Red-faced Warblers. It is easier to find these birds in the Catalina and Chiricahua Mountains because you can drive right up to the pines.

Another good birding spot is along the **Josephine Saddle Trail**, which also starts at the upper parking lot. This trail is not as well marked or maintained as the other trail, but it is also not as crowded. To reach it, go past the cable at the end of the lot and follow the dirt road. When this ends, go up the stream bed. About a fourth of a mile above the road, there is a fenced water-intake. The Elegant Trogon, Goshawk, Magnificent Hummingbird, and Painted Redstart have all nested here. A mile above the road the trail leaves the stream bed and climbs into the oaks on the west side of the canyon. In this general area, Turkey, Montezuma Quail, Brown-throated Wren, and Red-faced Warbler can be found. The trail continues to the saddle and the pines.

At night the dirt road above the parking lot is a good place to find Whip-poor-will, Poor-will, and Whiskered and Flammulated Screech-owls. The latter is most common in the oaks near the upper end of the road. This small owl is often passed by because it gives only one soft, very low toot at a time. The best way to see this bird is to repeat its call and at the same time walk away from it. The bird will usually follow you to the edge of its territory. By walking back and forth while calling, the owl can be maneuvered into a favorable position. The Flammulated Screech-owl often perches right next to the trunk of the tree. It can sometimes be picked out by running your light up and down the trunk.

The mammals most frequently seen in the canyon are Hooded and Hog-nosed Skunks, Rock Squirrel, Cliff Chipmunk, Porcupine, White-tailed Deer, and Peccary. Another nightly ritual at the lodge is the feeding of the "pigs." Not the customers, but the Peccary. Each night the cook puts the garbage in a trough behind the kitchen and a family of peccary comes in for their dinner.

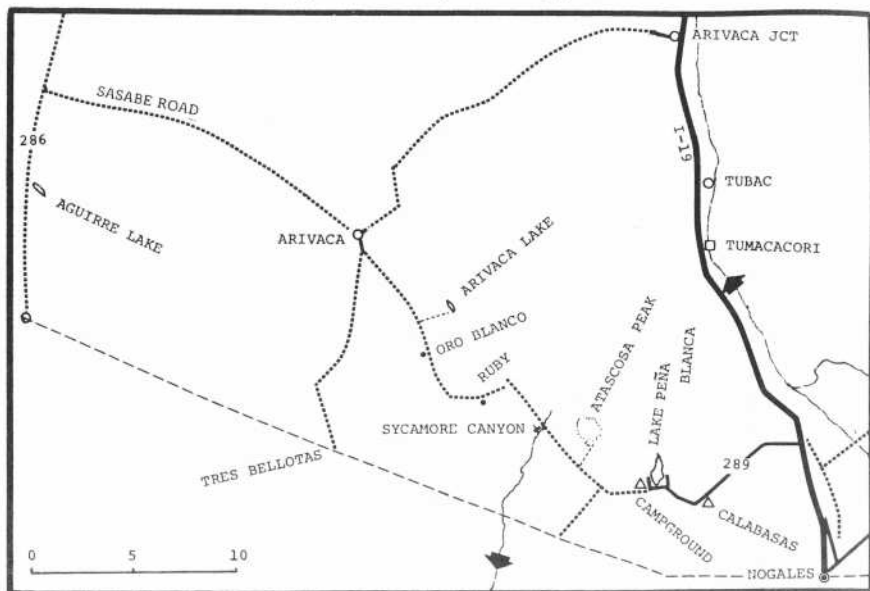
Some of the reptiles to be found in the canyon are lizards such as Clark's Spiny, Tree, Short-horned, Sonoran Alligator, Sonoran and Spotted Whiptails, and Great Plains and Mountain Skinks. Snakes are rare, but you may find a Mountain Patch-nosed, Green Rat, Eastern Ring-necked, Gopher, Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake, Mexican Black-headed, or a Black-tailed Rattlesnake.

The Bog Springs and Roundup Campgrounds have water, tables, stoves, and toilets, but no showers. This is a favored area of local people and usually crowded on weekends and holidays. Get here early.

The Santa Rita Lodge (Box 444, Amado, AZ 85640 - phone 602 625-8746) is also a popular spot. Make reservations early.

PEÑA BLANCA LAKE LOOP

(74.0 miles, one day)



This trip is more for exploration than for birding. There are no birds to be regularly found in this area that cannot be seen easier elsewhere, with the possible exception of the Montezuma Quail. The thing that makes this trip so enticing is its proximity to the border. Who knows what may wander up from Mexico?

The starting point is about 7 miles north of Nogales at the intersection of Interstate 19 and Ruby Road (Arizona 289). Going west on Ruby Road, you will pass through grasslands interspersed with mesquite and live oaks. This is prime habitat for the Montezuma Quail. It can often be seen feeding right along the road, particularly in the early morning or evening.

At the Calabasas Picnic Grounds (4,000 feet) (6.4 miles), look for Gray-breasted Jays, Bushtits, and Chipping and Lark Sparrows in the Emory Live Oaks and for Brown Towhees and Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the brush. You should see a Roadrunner somewhere in the area.

The best birding on this loop is usually around Peña Blanca Lake (PEA-neah BLAHN-cah) (Spanish for White Rock) (9.2 miles from the highway). In winter and migration, there are normally a few grebes, ducks, and shorebirds here. Occasionally, there is a cormorant, which may be either Double-crested or Neotropical. The water attracts numerous landbirds as well. By hiking at least part-way around the lake, you should see Black and Say's

Phoebes, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bewick's and Rock Wrens, Phainopepla, Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, House Finch, and Dark-backed Goldfinch. In summer, also look for White-winged Dove, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Scott's Oriole, and Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, and in winter, Green-tailed Towhee. If you hike far enough around the lake, you are bound to see a Montezuma Quail.

Most birders do not go beyond the lake because the rest of the tour crosses a sparse, arid grassland with few good birding spots. The 50 miles of narrow, winding, unpaved road also discourages the less hardy. However, if you are looking for a place to get away from the maddening mob, this is it.

One area that has been productive during the Christmas counts is along the 3-mile Atascosa Lookout Trail, which starts 4.8 miles beyond the lake. The forested section near the top of the mountain is usually the best spot.

Sycamore Canyon (8.8 miles beyond the lake) is an exciting spot. Its stream, which flows into Mexico as a tributary of the Rio Concepcion, acts as a natural gateway for southern species. Such novelties as the Tarahumara Frog, Vine Snake, and Sonoran Chub (a fish) are rarely found elsewhere in the United States. While no birds are restricted to the canyon, you should come up with an impressive list during your 2-mile hike down the canyon. You might even come up with a new species for the country. You may find an unusual number of wrens, and, perhaps, a Thick-billed Kingbird.

Another 5.3 miles will bring you to the old mining town of Ruby, which becomes active from time to time. About 5.0 miles beyond Ruby, you will come to a corral in Oro Blanco Canyon. The two huge mulberry trees here furnish a banquet for a number of birds. Arivaca Lake (1.7 miles) is not worth the rough, 2.5-mile drive that is required to get there. You will make better use of your time by going on another 5.0 miles to Arivaca, where there are large Fremont's Cottonwoods and some wet meadows. This can be a good spot in migration.

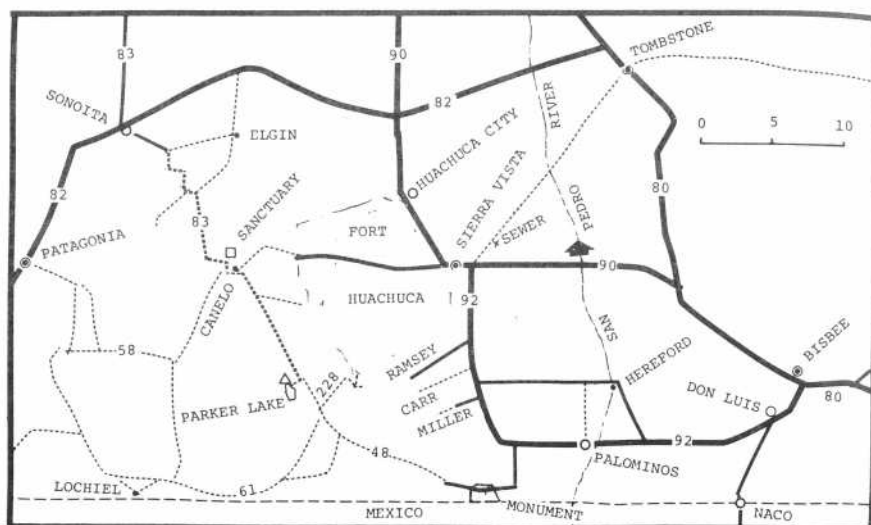
The Sasabe Road goes west from Arivaca to the Altar Valley along the Baboquivari Mountains. You should turn right toward Arivaca Junction on Interstate 19 (23.0 miles). This road is better graded and much straighter. It crosses a good grassland area, where sparrows abound in winter. At the freeway, you can turn right to get back to Ruby Road.

There are several campgrounds at Peña Blanca Lake and lots of wide spots along the road beyond the lake.

There are no motels on this loop. The closest ones are in Nogales.

HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS LOOP

(152.0 miles, one day)



When approached from the east, the towering Huachuca Mountains appear to rise abruptly from the plateau like dark blue islands on a sea of grass. In the clear desert air, each majestic peak is outlined against the sky as if in an unreal painting. No matter how often this panorama is viewed, or in what season, there is always a feeling of anticipation and mystery, and a magnetic urge to see what is there.

Getting into these mountains is not easy. Unlike the Santa Rita and Chiricahua Mountains, the Huachuclas have few access routes. The main roads only encircle the mountains, and the numerous side roads barely extend into the lower parts of the canyons. The only way to reach the peaks and the enticing interior is to hike, and the hiking can be rough. The trails are not well maintained or easy to find.

The starting point for this tour is Sierra Vista at the gates of Fort Huachuca. Unlike most other places in this area, this town (or rather group of towns: Sierra Vista, Fry, and Huachuca City) is quite new. It was founded after the post was reactivated in 1954. There are modern motels, cafes, and shopping centers. The town is friendly, progressive, and has a superb climate.

The old fort, which is now an electronics-proving ground, has many historical buildings worth visiting, but Sierra Vista has few old buildings. Before 1958, the town was called Fry and consisted of a general store, post office, and saloon. The only buildings that are really old and worthy of a historical plaque are a series of stone houses along Highway 90 just north of

the main gate of the fort. Many an old soldier will remember these buildings, for they were the "houses of pleasure" during World Wars I and II.

To follow the tour go to the intersection of Highways 90 and 92 at the eastern edge of town. If you want to check the city's sewage ponds, turn north and go 1.3 miles down the Charleston Road toward Tombstone. The ponds, which are on the right, attract a few ducks and shorebirds, particularly in migration seasons. There is a fairly good area along the San Pedro River another 5 miles down the road at the site of the proposed Charleston Dam. It is a good spot to find Crissal Thrashers, Pyrrhuloxias, and Abert's Towhees. After exploring these areas, return to the intersection and go south on Highway 92 toward the mountains.

The first few miles are an example of urban sprawl and poor land management. Since there are few land-use laws in this rural area, anything goes. The thing that is going the fastest is the open countryside. The land speculators have little trouble selling lots in this high-plateau region where the climate is ideal year round and the air is smog-free. Houses are springing up where once there was grassland. But what of the future? Today's water supply comes from ever-deepening wells, a source that cannot last much longer. What happens when the water runs out?

On nearing the mountains, you will see that the steep slopes are eroded into numerous canyons. These are delightful spots with streams, woodlands, and many birds. Most of the land is private and posted, but you can bird along the roads. The birdlife is about the same in all of the canyons.

Ramsey Canyon (6.0 miles) is the first one that you can enter. Its 4-mile road ends at the Nature Conservancy's **Ramsey Canyon Preserve**, a truly delightful spot. It is famous for its hummingbirds of some 15 different species, and there is not a better place in Arizona to study these dazzling jewels. Other birds are also abundant.

This very popular refuge has 5 house-keeping cabins for rent. Be sure to make reservations early (Mile Hi Ranch, Box 84, Hereford, AZ 85615 — phone 602 378-2785). Even if cabins are not available, you are still welcome to visit. Be sure to phone first. It is customary to leave a contribution to help buy feed.

The next major road leads to Carr Canyon (1.0 mile), which is the largest and most open of the canyons on the east side of the mountains. For the first three miles, the road climbs slowly up the floor of the valley. The next four miles are known as the Reef Road and are passable only with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. This steep, rough, rocky road zigzags up the side of the canyon and then runs along the top of the towering cliffs at the head of the canyon. The view is breathtaking. The road ends at an unimproved campground in a stand of pines. The birding here is excellent.

Carr Canyon was the operating base for many of the early naturalists. The most famous of these was Professor C. R. Bierdermann. He was born in Germany and studied at Leipzig University, as did his cousin Robert Schumann. In 1860, he came to the United States and soon joined the army. One of his assignments was as a personal bodyguard to President Lincoln, but that did not last long. Later he joined several expeditions of the Smithsonian Institution as an entomologist. In 1880, he came to Arizona and, in 1890, built a cabin in Carr Canyon. Here he remained until his death in 1934 at the age of 93. During his many years in Carr Canyon, Professor Bierdermann collected many species that were new to science. It was not long before other naturalists were beating a path to his door. His cabin and grave are at the upper end of the canyon, but are not open to the public.

About 1.3 miles beyond Carr Canyon, you can turn left on the Hereford Road and go down to the **San Pedro River**. It has very little water today, but in former times, it had numerous marshes and beaver ponds. John Spring, who served at Fort Huachuca in the late 1800s, wrote that it was necessary to detour well into Mexico to cross the river during the rainy season. He also recalled seeing huge flocks of ducks and geese, which were shot for the mess. By his estimation, the fur trappers took over a million beaver from this area at the turn of the century.

Without beaver, the river now has little water or vegetation, but it still attracts birds, including the Mexican Duck. There is a good birding spot along the road just across the bridge. Here, among the bushes and trees, look for Gambel's Quail, Ground Dove, Barn Owl, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Verdin, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Phainopepla, Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, House Finch, and Abert's Towhee. In summer, watch for White-winged Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lesser Nighthawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. In winter, Green-tailed Towhee, Eastern and Western Bluebirds, and White-crowned Sparrow are common.

A half-mile beyond the bridge, there is a ranch house around which you may find Scaled Quail and Inca Dove. The big attraction here is the willow-lined pond, a good spot for Black Phoebe and Vermilion Flycatcher. In migration, a few ducks and shorebirds may occur, and in summer, Tropical Kingbirds. One fall, a Green Kingfisher stayed here.

After passing the ranch house, the road turns away from the river and enters an area of limestone soil with low, thorny brush. This is a part of the Chihuahuan Desert. The dominant plants are Tarbush, Creosote Bush, and White-thorn Acacia. The most common bird is the Black-throated Sparrow. Also watch for Rock Wren and Roadrunner.

The Hereford Road continues for 4.5 miles to Highway 92 east of Palominas. To the left, the highway leads to Don Luis, Lowell, and Bisbee

(11.0 miles). From there, you can take Highway 80 to Douglas and the Chiricahua Mountains.

Bisbee is not a good place to bird, but it is historical and fun to visit. The Copper Queen Hotel in the heart of town was considered posh in 1890. It is still a very comfortable and interesting place to stay. The Lavender Pit Copper Mine at the eastern edge of town was one of the largest open-pit mines in the world. At Don Luis, you can go south for a mile and cross the border to Naco, a good example of a small Mexican town. No papers are required unless you plan to stay in Mexico for over 72 hours or are an alien.

To get back to the Huachuca Mountains, you can turn around and go back on Hereford Road or make a loop through Palominas. To do the latter, turn right on Highway 92, cross the river, and turn right on Palominas Road (3.8 miles). This will take you to Hereford Road. Along the way, you will pass extensive grasslands, which teem with sparrows in winter. Most will be Vespers, but you may find Savannah, Brewer's, Chipping, White-crowned, Baird's, and Clay-colored. Also watch for Mountain Bluebirds and longspurs.

Continuing south on Highway 92 beyond Hereford Road, you will soon come to **Miller Canyon** (.8 mile). This is probably the most interesting of the canyons, but getting into it can be difficult. The 3-mile road is usually quite rough, and the 5-mile trail, which leads to the very top of Miller Peak (9449 feet), is not well marked. However, a trip up the canyon can be rewarding. Nearly all of the habitats and nearly all of the birds of the "Mexican Mountains" can be found somewhere along the way.

The road into the canyon first passes through a grassland with a scattering of Honey Mesquite, Soapweed Yucca, and an occasional Arizona Sycamore. The large white flowers of the Prickly Poppy and the purple flowers of the Rothrock Thistle add a bit of color. This is the home of the White-necked Raven, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and Grasshopper Sparrow. The Say's Phoebe is here too and nests about barns or rocky cliffs. In summer Western Kingbirds sit along all of the fence lines. After the rains start about the first of July, both Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows start to sing all over the place. The vegetation along the stream here is rather sparse, consisting mainly of the willow-like Desert Willow, which has a very pretty, lavender, orchid-like flower. These attractive plants are often graced by a Vermilion Flycatcher or a Phainopepla.

Most of the mountainside between 5500 and 7500 feet is covered by live oaks. On the dry hillsides these oaks are quite scrubby and grow in mixed stands with Alligator Juniper and Mexican Pinyon. Along the floor of the canyon, the Emory Live Oak grows into a good-sized tree. Below 7000 feet in this habitat, as along the road in the canyon, you can find Great Horned Owl; Common and Whiskered Screech-owls; Flicker (Red-shafted); Acorn, Ladder-backed, and Brown-backed Woodpeckers; Gray-breasted Jay; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Hutton's Vireo;

Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; and Lark and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. In summer you may also expect Ash-throated and Dusky-capped Flycatchers; Greater and Western Pewees; Solitary Vireo; Black-throated Gray Warbler; and Black-headed Grosbeak. The Montezuma Quail is most common in the lower part of this habitat, particularly in open areas with patches of grass.

After 3 miles the main road ends at a parking lot, but an old mining road goes on up the canyon. It is wise to park here and walk, except in winter when there are not many birds beyond this point.

The birding can be quite good right around the parking lot. Look for Magnificent, Blue-throated, and Broad-billed Hummingbirds; Painted Redstart; and at night, Whip-poor-will, Poor-will, and several owls. Just upstream from the parking lot, you will find the fenced intake for the city of Tombstone's water supply. Among the large sycamores here, you should find Cassin's Kingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Scott's Oriole, and sometimes an Elegant Trogan.

The first part of the trail follows the old mining road, but you may be confused by the no-trespassing signs, fences, or other obstacles. This is public land, owned by the U.S. Forest Service. You have a right to cross it, signs and fences to the contrary. If you cannot find the start of the trail, just walk up the stream bed until you come to it.

At first the trail goes through a moist, steep-walled section of the canyon, which is very tropical in appearance. Except for Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, there are not many birds in this cool area. After a mile and a half the road goes up the left side of the canyon and the trail goes up the right side. From here on the birding gets better. About a half-mile beyond this point, there is an area where the White Firs have been topped for Christmas trees. A Spotted Owl can sometimes be flushed here.

Following the trail up the right rim of the canyon, you will notice that the oak woodlands are different. Here at 7000 feet, most of the oaks are either Silverleaf or Arizona Oaks. From here on the Red-faced Warbler can be expected. It is often quite common about a mile above the spot where you left the road. With a lot of luck, you may find the Virginia's Warbler. It likes the brush on the hillsides. The Brown-throated Wren, which may be conspecific with the House Wren, is also found in this area.

About 2.5 miles above the road, you will come to the first of the Ponderosa Pines, which offer a different set of birds. Here you should watch for Turkey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy-owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Northern Raven, Gray-sided Chickadee (very rare in these mountains), Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Eastern and Western Bluebirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Yellow-eyed Junco, and

Chipping Sparrow. Of most interest, perhaps, will be the warblers — Olive, Yellow-rumped Grace's, and Red-faced. In late July and August you should find numerous Rufous Hummingbirds and, with luck, a White-eared. The White-eared is often confused with the immature Broad-billed, which usually occurs at lower elevations. The White-eared, is a bird of the pines, but may occur at feeders elsewhere.

Eventually, you will reach the Crest Trail, which runs along the ridge of the mountains. To the south, it leads to the top of Miller Peak and then on to the Coronado National Monument. To the north, it joins the trails into Carr and Ramsey Canyons.

The vegetation along much of the Crest Trail is Ponderosa Pine and scrub Gambel's Oak. In the higher parts, as on Miller Peak, there are stands of Quaking Aspen, White Pine, Douglas Fir, and a few Engelmann Spruce. The birds are about the same as those listed for the pines. Golden Eagles, Zone-tailed Hawks, and other raptors are often seen soaring over the mountain-tops. Golden-crowned Kinglets have been found in the spruce groves.

Some of the mammals that might be encountered in Miller Canyon are White-tailed Deer, Peccary, Porcupine, Raccoon, Coati (fairly common), Arizona Gray Squirrel, Cliff Chipmunk, Bobcat, Coyote, and Mexican and Bushy-tailed Wood Rats. By driving the roads at night, you may see Spotted, Striped, Hooded, and Hog-nosed Skunks. With real luck, you may glimpse an animal that looks like an elongated house cat. This is the Jaguarundi. It may occur in either a brown or a black phase.

The rather common Hog-nosed Skunk is usually easily identified by its white back and all-white tail. It may sometimes be confused with the white phase of the Hooded Skunk, which may have about the same markings. Luckily, most of the Hooded Skunks are almost entirely black. The fastest way to separate the two skunks is by the tail. The Hog-nosed has a short, bushy tail that is carried more or less horizontally. The Hooded has a very long, narrow tail that is held almost straight up. When caught in the lights of your car, the Hog-nosed will usually stop and look back, if not more. The Hooded will scoot right off the road, allowing only a glimpse of an all-black animal with a long black tail.

The Hog-nosed Skunk adapts rather quickly to the presence of Man and is often found around cabins, dumps, and campgrounds. Unless provoked, it is rather friendly — too friendly, at times. The author recalls a very friendly individual that once came to his sleeping bag and proceeded to lick the hair oil off his head. Fern Zimmerman, who was nearby, was holding her breath for fear a sudden turn would trigger a disaster, but the author was wide awake and unflinching as the pretty kitty finished off the hair oil, added a few slurps in the ear, and ambled away.

If you hike to the top of Miller Peak, an extra day will be needed to finish the tour around the mountains. However, you can complete the part along the east side. By staying on Highway 92, you will soon pass several other canyons, most of which are hard to enter and not worth the effort. In Ash Canyon, a single large chunk of gold-inlaid quartz worth several thousand dollars was found in 1905. It sparked a minor gold rush, but nothing more was found. The nugget is on exhibit at the First National Bank in Bisbee.

About 4.5 miles beyond Miller Canyon, the highway swings away from the mountains and heads east toward Bisbee. Road 48, the turn-off to the Coronado National Monument and the west side of the Huachucas, is just ahead on the right. To follow the tour, you should turn here. However, the 90-mile trip around the west side of the mountains is better for scenery than for birds, and the road is dirt for 42 miles and steep in spots. You may want to skip this part. If so, you can continue on Highway 92 toward the Chiricahua Mountains (95 miles).

Shortly after turning right on Road 48, you will begin the climb over the dry, south end of the mountains. At first, the road is bordered by grasslands, a good area for sparrows and meadowlarks. Next, it comes to the oak woodlands, which are rather sparse here, but still contain most of the birds of this habitat.

A stop at the visitors' center (5.0 miles) will give you a chance to learn about the Monument, which commemorates the passage of the Coronado Expedition in 1540. Be sure to check the birdbath outside the rear windows. Beyond the center, the road narrows and zigzags up the steep canyon walls to Montezuma Pass (3.5 miles). A vast expanse of Mexico and the United States is visible from the top (6600 feet). You may also see a Golden Eagle soaring over the distant hills.

Beyond the pass, the dirt road may be impassable shortly after a summer rain or in winter. It may also be hard to follow because there are numerous side roads. Just remember to stay on Road 48 until you come to Parker Canyon Lake.

The southern end of the Crest Trail, which goes 5.5 miles to the top of Miller Peak, is .7 of a mile below the pass. Copper Canyon is another half-mile down. Here you can find numerous Rock and Canyon Wrens and perhaps a trogon. A pair have nested in a sycamore a short way up the canyon. For the next 10 miles, you will pass through a rather unproductive oak woodland.

Currently, the best spot in the United States for finding the Buff-breasted Flycatcher is **Scotia Canyon**, which is reached by a rough, dirt road. If you want to try for this evasive little bird, turn right on Road 228 (12 miles beyond the pass) and go 3.0 miles into Sunnyside Canyon. Keep left at

each fork. This road is rough and slippery after a recent rain, so you may have to walk. Just before reaching the bottom of the canyon, you will see a side road that goes left through Scotia Canyon to Gate 7 of Fort Huachuca. Follow this up a steep hill and stop when the road levels out. From here on the road gets even rougher, so park and walk. After hiking about a half-mile and crossing the creek twice, you will come to an embankment and a pond. Just beyond, there is a stand of Chihuahua Pines, where several pairs of the flycatcher have nested for the last few years. You may also find a trogon.

Return to Road 48, continue for 2.3 miles, and join Highway 83 at Parker Canyon Lake. The lake and campground, which are 2.5 miles to the left, are mobbed by fishermen on weekends. At other times you may find a few ducks. About 2.0 miles beyond the lake on Highway 83, you will again come to Parker Canyon. On the hillside here, there is a stand of Chihuahua Pines that should be checked for flycatchers.

Some 10 miles past the lake and beyond the turn-off to Fort Huachuca, you will come to the old settlement of Canelo. On the right 1.8 miles beyond this, there is a sign marking the road to the Triangle or Ewing Ranch. Take this road past the ranch house to the **Canelo Hills Cienega**, a Nature Conservancy sanctuary. Go through the gate to the caretaker's house. This fine old adobe house with 3-foot thick walls was built in 1890 and is the oldest in the area.

This 165-acre sanctuary was created to preserve one of the few remaining marshes in Southern Arizona, but it also contains several other habitats. The sanctuary, at an elevation of 4975 feet, lies in the boundary between the oak woodlands and the grasslands, with the latter being the more evident. The typical vegetation is One-seeded and Alligator Junipers and Mexican Blue and Emory Oaks on the dry hillsides; Gooding's Willow, Arizona Black Walnut, and Fremont's Cottonwood along O'Donnell Creek; and a predominance of various grasses throughout. The small marsh, or cienega, contains a number of unusual plants — in particular, an orchid that does not occur elsewhere in the United States.

Although the birding here is not exceptional, this is a delightful place to bird. Some of the more interesting birds that you might find here are Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Scaled and Montezuma Quail, Gila and Acorn Woodpeckers, Black and Say's Phoebes, Vermilion Flycatcher, Gray-breasted Jay, White-necked Raven, Bridled Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's and Rock Wrens, Phainopepla, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Lazuli Bunting, Dark-backed Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, and Grasshopper Sparrow. In summer, you may see Swainson's Hawk, White-winged Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks; and, in winter, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, and lots of sparrows.

Beyond Canelo, the road leaves the oak-clad slopes of the mountains and crosses a vast expanse of grass-covered hills. This is the heart of the grassland, which stretches almost unbroken for mile after mile. This treeless tract is not only appealing to the eye, but also is some of the finest cattle country in the United States. It is good for birds, too.

In addition to the resident population of Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, White-necked Raven, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrow, you have a good chance to see a Golden Eagle and a Prairie Falcon, particularly in winter. Winter really is the best time here. At this season, there are numerous hawks, including Ferruginous, Rough-legged, and Northern Harrier. You should also see an abundance of sparrows. Most of these will be Vespers and Savannahs, but there may be Brewer's, White-crowned, Clay-colored, Lincoln's, and sometimes a Baird's. The biggest thrill of the winter is the Chestnut-collared Longspurs. If you look hard enough, you should find a McCown's or even a Lapland or Smith's.

The Indians call Southeastern Arizona the land of two springs. Nowhere is the reason for this more apparent than here. For most of the year, this is a sea of dry brown grass. Neither the cold rains of winter nor the infrequent rains of spring will turn it green. But shortly after the summer rains begin in July, the new grass transforms the land into a green carpet sprinkled with wildflowers. Spring in July!

After the first good rains in early July, the nights on the grasslands are suddenly filled with bleating sounds like those of a thousand sheep. One of the great phenomena of the rainy season has started — the emergence of the Couch's Spadefoot. These tiny toads come out of their burrows by the millions to breed in every rain-pool and pond. After a few short weeks of riotous living, they return to their burrows for the long wait until the next summer's rainy season.

In other parts of the grassland and on the deserts, the rainy season is greeted by other toads such as the Plains and Western Spadefoots; Great Plains, Green, and Sonoran Green Toads; Casque-headed and Barking Frogs; and Woodland and Plains Narrow-mouthed Toads. Of course, this abundance of toads soon attracts the predators. Skunks, raccoons, coyotes, foxes, and snakes soon become very active, too. Driving the back roads at night can be very rewarding at this time of year.

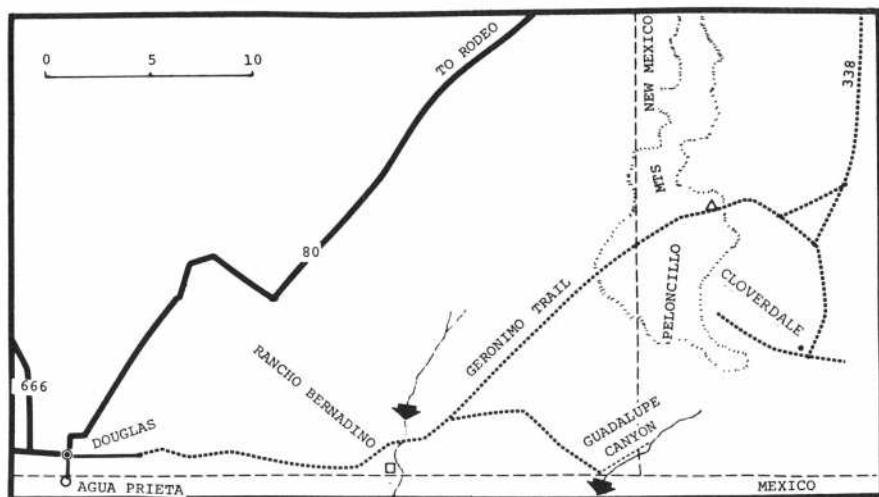
Continue on Highway 83 to Sonoita (17.0 miles from Canelo). Here you have a choice of going west to Patagonia, north to Tucson, or east to Sierra Vista, where the tour began.

The only improved campground is at Parker Canyon Lake.

There are several motels in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, and Bisbee.

GUADALUPE CANYON

(68.0 miles, one half day)



This trip goes along the Mexican border from Douglas to Guadalupe Canyon, which is one of the most fascinating birding spots in the country. The canyon is located on the headwaters of the Rio Yaqui and acts as a natural gateway for Mexican species. Such birds as Buff-collared Nightjar, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, and Thick-billed Kingbird were first recorded in the United States from this spot.

The road into the canyon is dirt and sometimes rough, particularly after a rain. Loose sand and flash floods are the main hazards, but heat can be a problem. The canyon is about 4000 feet in elevation and can be quite warm. It is wise to arrive as early as possible in the morning.

The starting point is the intersection of Highway 80 (A Avenue) and 15th Street. Go east on 15th Street toward the big "D" on the mountain. You are now on the Geronimo Trail. Follow it for 22.2 miles to the Guadalupe Canyon turnoff.

Along the way you will pass through a section of the Chihuahuan Desert, which is characterized by White-thorn Acacia growing on limestone soil. In this sparse habitat, the principal birds are Scaled Quail and Black-throated Sparrow. The mammals mostly to be seen are Coyote, Harris' Antelope Squirrel, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Desert Cottontail, Peccary, and perhaps a Porcupine. At night, you may also see Striped Skunk, Kit Fox, Merriam's Kangaroo Rat, and numerous mice. The common reptiles are Collared, Leopard, Lesser Earless, Zebra-tailed,

Side-blotched, Texas Horned, and Round-tailed Horned Lizards; Little Striped and Western Whiptails; Gopher, Western Hog-nosed, Coachwhip, Long-nosed, and Night Snakes; and Western Diamond-backed and Mojave Rattlesnakes.

After 17.0 miles you will cross the San Bernardino Ranch that was once owned by Texas John Slaughter, the famous sheriff of Cochise. The turnoff to Guadalupe Canyon is 3.0 miles farther on the right. The canyon proper is another 9.0 miles.

Although a welcome relief from the dry, dusty desert, Guadalupe Canyon is not large or impressive — only a narrow band of green across the creosote-covered plains. Many large Arizona Sycamores and Fremont's Cottonwoods grow along the valley floor, and these are interspersed with patches of willow and mesquite. The vegetation is neither dense nor lush.

Down the canyon to the right, you can see the barbed-wire fence marking the Mexican border. To the left the road continues up the canyon for another 4.0 miles to a gate. Some maps show the road as continuing on through Guadalupe Pass. This is true only if you are riding a mule. This is all private property and may be closed at some future date. Please behave in a manner to insure that birders will always be welcome.

To get the most out of the canyon, you should walk as much of the 4 miles as possible. (The last mile is rough and narrow.) Get here early. Many birds quit singing by 10 a.m. Some of the birds to be found in summer are Gambel's Quail; White-winged and Ground Doves; Black-chinned, Broad-billed, and Violet-crowned (nests) Hummingbirds; Flicker (Red-shafted); Gila, Acorn, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; possibly the Rose-throated Becard (recorded once); Cassin's and Thick-billed (first found in 1958) Kingbirds; Brown-crested, Ash-throated, and Vermilion Flycatchers; Beardless Tyrannulet; Black and Say's Phoebe; Scrub and Gray-breasted Jays; Bridled Titmouse; Verdin; Bushtit (some of the Black-eared race); Bewick's, Canyon, and Rock Wrens; Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers; Phainopepla; Bell's Vireo; Lucy's Warbler; Bronzed Cowbird; Summer Tanager; Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks; Varied Bunting (thick mesquite); House Finch; Dark-backed Goldfinch, and Brown Towhee.

At night you may hear the Great Horned Owl, Common Screech-owl, Poor-will, and the elusive Buff-collared Nightjar. The latter was first discovered here in 1958 and only occasionally since. The Magoffins, who lived in the canyon, have heard its insect-like call along the cliffs at the upper end of the canyon. Just south of the border, it breeds on dry, rocky, juniper-covered slopes.

After exploring the canyon, return to the Geronimo Trail, which you can follow back to Douglas. However, you may want to visit the Peloncillo

Mountains to the east. If so, follow the Geronimo Trail for 13.0 miles until you enter the Coronado National Forest.

Shortly after entering the National Forest, you will see a watering trough on the right. In addition to being a great place to take a bath after a week of birding, it attracts many birds and sometimes a herd of Peccary. The best birding is usually in a wooded area in New Mexico beyond the crest of the pass (3.2 miles). Here among the Emory and Silverleaf Oaks and Mexican Pinyon Pine, you can find Band-tailed Pigeon, Gray-breasted Jay, Bridled Titmouse, Bushtit, Hepatic and Western Tanagers, Dusky-capped and Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Black-headed Grosbeak. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks have nested in the pinyons up the road above the picnic area.

From the picnic area you have a choice of retracing your way back down the Geronimo Trail for 40 miles to Douglas or going on to Highway 180 in the Animas Valley, then north to Animas, and left to Highway 80 just north of Portal, a distance of about 45 miles. Either way, it is a long, hot, dusty drive. About the only bird of interest in the Animas Valley is the Mexican Duck, and it is rare. Look for it around the stock ponds, particularly those with trees.

There are no campgrounds on this trip, but camping is permitted in Guadalupe Canyon (at present) and at the picnic area in the Peloncillo Mountains.

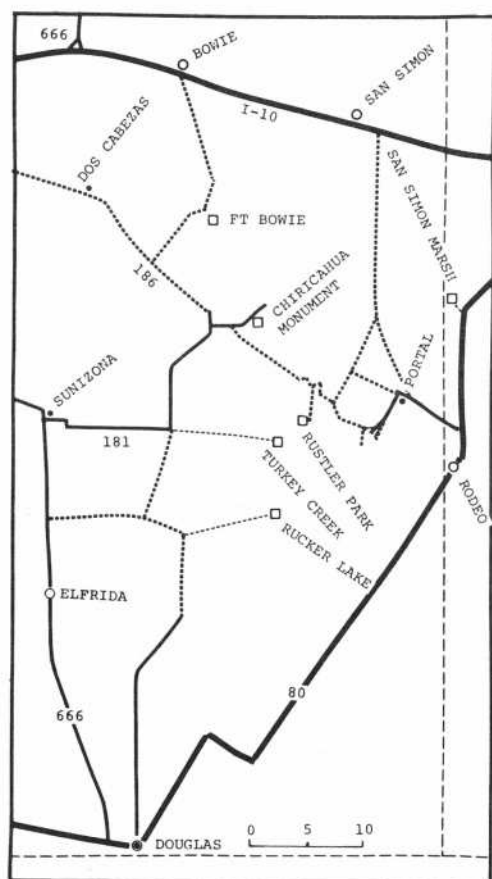
There are motels in Douglas and at Portal.



Guadalupe Canyon

THE CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS LOOP

(175.0 miles, two days)



Even in Arizona with its abundance of spectacular scenery, the Chiricahua Mountains are outstanding. In any other state, they would be set aside as a national park. They have not only breath-taking views, but also a unique collection of unusual flora and fauna. Nearly all of the exotic species that occur in the Mexican Mountains of Arizona can be found in the Chiricahuas. Many birders consider these mountains the best birding spot in the United States.

The starting point is the town of Douglas. From here, you have a choice of entering the Chirichuas from either the west or the east. However, it is highly recommended that you choose the latter. The birding is far better on the east side of the mountains than on the west.

Go northeast on Highway 80 from Douglas to the Portal turnoff, which is 2.5 miles north of Rodeo (50.0 miles). The land along the way is rather unproductive, but you may see a Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, or Burrowing Owl. The owl can often be found along the south side of the highway somewhere between 1 and 5 miles west of Rodeo. In winter sparrows and longspurs can be abundant. The Geronimo Monument at Apache is a reminder that not too long ago the Indians still reigned supreme.

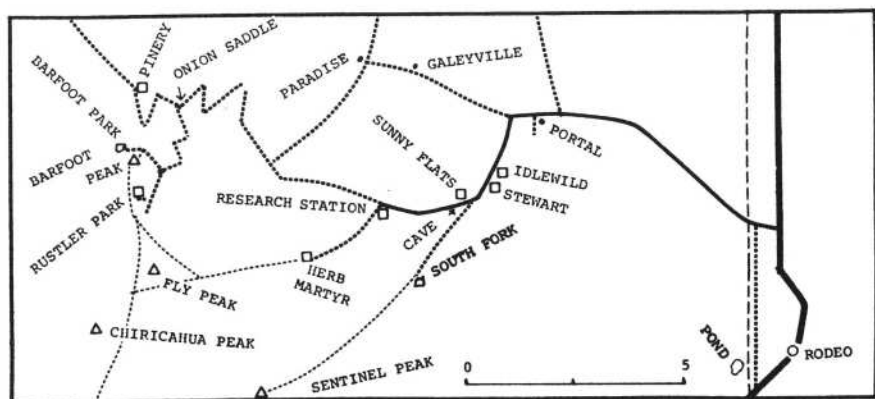
The Chiricahua Mountains were the home of an Apache tribe led by the peaceful Cochise. As is often the case, a trouble-making renegade named Geronimo is better remembered. He led a militant band of braves in raids on the settlers and in turn was chased all over Southeastern Arizona by the cavalry. He

finally surrendered in Skeleton Canyon in 1886 and was shipped off to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Unlike Cochise, who lies forgotten in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Dragoon Mountains, Geronimo went to Washington and rode in the inaugural parade of Teddy Roosevelt.

Before turning left to Portal, you may want to continue north on Highway 80 for another 10.0 miles to the Cienega Lake turnoff on the left. This road leads a mile to the San Simon Marsh (Closed during the nesting season from April to July.). This area was set aside to preserve a nesting site of the Mexican Duck. Later the area was "improved" by draining the marsh and creating a fishing lake, which caused the ducks to abandon the area. Hopefully, some action will be taken to restore the nesting grounds, but the marsh is endangered by the lowering of the water-table as irrigation increases in the valley.

The marsh is still worth a visit. There are many other birds here among the willows and rushes. Look for Gambel's Quail, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Bewick's Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, and House Finch. In summer, also watch for White-winged Dove, Lesser Nighthawk (abundant over the lake in the evening), Black-chinned Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Western Pewee, Beardless Tyrannulet, Phainopepla, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Northern Oriole, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. In migration, anything might occur. If you do not see the Mexican Duck here, try some of the irrigation ponds near the fields on the way back to the Portal turnoff.

Go west toward Portal (7.0 miles), which consists of a small store, postoffice, and a few houses. Watch for Scaled Quail along the way, particularly near the cattle guard where you cross back into Arizona. About a half-mile beyond Portal, the road forks. The right fork goes to the old mining towns of Paradise and Galeyville. You can often find Scrub Jays and Plain Titmice along this road. The jays prefer areas of brush, and the titmice like patches of juniper or pinyon.



Take the left fork into **Cave Creek Canyon**, one of the most beautiful spots in Arizona and an excellent birding area. The canyon from Portal to the Southwestern Research Station is only about 5 miles long and you will want to cover it thoroughly. Plan to spend at least a day here or perhaps a week.

The display sign at the ranger station (1.3 miles) shows the location of the roads, trails, and campgrounds in the canyon. There are two side roads. The first one (1.6 miles) leads into the south fork of the canyon. From the end of this road (1.4 miles), a trail continues for 7 miles to Sentinel Peak. The area along the lower part of the trail is one of the better birding spots. The second road starts at the research station and goes to tiny Herb Martyr Lake (2.2 miles), where there are several trails. Violet-green Swallows and Purple Martins are usually over the lake. Red Crossbills frequent the pines. This is a great place to hear Coyotes at night.

Although rather short and narrow, Cave Creek Canyon contains a variety of habitats. The grasslands of the plains give way near Portal to a narrow band of riparian growth of Honey Mesquite and Arizona Sycamore along the stream and to thickets of Scrub Oak, Mountain Mahogany, and other bushes on the dry slopes. As the road climbs slowly, the mesquite disappears and trees become more numerous. The entrance to the canyon proper is framed by towering, rose-colored cliffs and spires, which are made even more colorful by a bright green lichen. Within the canyon, the broad valley floor is canopied by white-trunked sycamores, Arizona Black Walnut, Apache Pine, Arizona Cypress, and a variety of live oaks. This lush woodland opens occasionally to reveal the magnificent cliffs that soar for hundreds of feet almost directly overhead. This delightful scene is further enhanced by a rock-hopping creek of clear, cold water.

Some of the birds to look for are Prairie Falcon (nests on the cliffs); Montezuma Quail (uncommon, usually near the lower end of the canyon); Band-tailed Pigeon; White-throated Swift; Flicker (Red-shafted); Acorn, Ladder-backed, and Brown-backed Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe (near the bridge at Portal or the research station); Gray-breasted Jay; Bridled Titmouse; Bushtit; Bewick's, Rock, and Canyon Wrens; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Hutton's Vireo (oaks); Bronzed Cowbird; House Finch (near Portal); Brown Towhee (dry slopes); and Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

In summer, watch for White-winged Dove; Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Magnificent, Blue-throated, Violet-crowned (rare), Broad-billed, and other Hummingbirds; Elegant Trogon (usually along the South Fork Trail, but may be anywhere in the canyon); Cassin's and Western (more common below the ranger station) Kingbirds; Sulphur-bellied (sycamores), Brown-crested (lower part of canyon), Ash-throated (brushy hillsides), Dusky-capped, and Willow Flycatchers; Greater and Western Pewees; Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows; Solitary Vireo; Painted Redstart (along the stream); Hooded and Scott's Orioles; and Black-headed Grosbeak.

At night listen for Screech (lower part of canyon below the range of the Whiskered), Whiskered (thick oaks), Great Horned (more open parts of canyon), and Elf (summer, sycamores) Owls; Whip-poor-will (woodlands); and Poor-will (open areas, slopes). Sometimes you can hear Flammulated and Spotted Owls, but these are usually higher in the mountains, as along the South Fork Trail.

Some of the mammals that may be seen are Raccoon; Coati; Spotted, Striped, Hog-nosed, and Hooded Skunks; Gray Fox; Coyote; Bobcat; Rock Squirrel; Cliff Chipmunk; Apache Fox Squirrel (a rare Mexican species, which can be identified by its yellowish brown color, ochraceous belly); Arizona Gray Squirrel (white belly); and White-tailed Deer.

The canyon gets its name from the numerous caves along the base of the cliffs. These caves were used by Indians. By searching hard enough, you may find artifacts. The things most often found are bits of broken pottery and corn cobs. These tiny cobs (2 to 3 inches) were probably left by a group of farming Indians that lived here before being forced out by the Apaches in the 1600s or 1700s.

An impressive set of caves can be reached by driving up the canyon for .4 miles beyond the South Fork Road. As soon as you cross the cattle guard, park and climb the rocky slope on the left. The caves are about 100 feet up, although it seems like 500 feet.

Turn left on Herb Martyr Road to reach the American Museum's **Southwestern Research Station**. It is operated as a field station and laboratory for researchers, but cabins with meals are available to birders and naturalists. Make inquiries well in advance (Southwestern Research Station, Portal, AZ 85632 — phone 602 558-2396). Gasoline is also available. Please remember that this is a study area, not a public museum. While the staff is very friendly, they do not have time to give you a guided tour.

Birding is excellent, and the scenery is terrific. After a few days of sharing meals and experiences with the interesting students and guests from around the world, you will truly hate to leave this delightful spot.

Beyond the station, the road climbs out of the canyon and crosses the oak belt. A good spot for Flammulated Screech-owls at night is around the Paradise Road intersection (4.0 miles). Usually, they will respond well to a tape, but are harder than heck to see.

There is little water in the oak belt so birds are not numerous, but watch for Montezuma Quail, Turkey, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Brown-throated Wren (uncommon, usually below 7500 feet), Gray Vireo (rare), Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Gray-breasted Jay. In spots where you can take your eyes off the narrow, twisting road, scan the skies for Goshawk and Zone-tailed Hawk.

At Onion Saddle (3.3 miles) turn left toward **Rustler Park** (8500 feet). The view from this road is terrific. It appears as if the whole western part of New Mexico is laid at your feet, and you can see mountains 100 miles away in Mexico. Do not forget to watch for birds. The dry, brushy hillsides in this area are good for Virginia's Warblers.

After 2.0 miles the road levels out and then forks. The left fork goes 1.0 mile to Rustler Park, and the right fork goes 1.0 mile to Barfoot Park. Before you rush off, bird the area around the fork because it is one of the better places, particularly for Eastern Bluebirds and Hepatic Tanagers.

Other birds to watch for here among the Ponderosa Pines are Goshawk; Band-tailed Pigeon; Flammulated Screech-owl; Northern Pygmy-owl; Whip-poor-will; Common Nighthawk; Broad-tailed, Rufous (late summer), and White-eared (rare, late summer) Hummingbirds; Flicker (Red-shafted); Hairy Woodpecker; Western Flycatcher; Violet-green Swallow; Steller's Jay; Northern Raven; Gray-sided Chickadee; White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; House Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird (the Eastern is usually more common); Olive, Yellow-rumped, Grace's, and Red-faced Warblers; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Red Crossbill; Yellow-eyed Junco; and Chipping Sparrow.

The last part of the road to Barfoot Park can be rough for low cars. You may want to walk after reaching the cattle guard. This will also give you a chance to look over the grove of Quaking Aspen and White Fir, which grow on this cool, north side of the mountain. In late July and early August when the flowers have disappeared from the rest of the mountain, there are still penstemons in bloom here, and White-eared Hummingbirds often come to them. Barfoot Park is reserved for group camping and is often crowded with scouts, school groups, or church outings.

As you follow the delightful road to Rustler Park, keep an eye out for Turkeys, particularly on the downhill side. About a quarter of a mile after you pass the cattle guard marking the edge of the park, there is a spring on the left. This trickle of water attracts numerous birds. In fact, you can see nearly everything in the area by sitting right here. Beyond the spring, the road forks. The left fork goes to the ranger station and the right fork goes to the campground.

The little meadow below the campground is an enchanting spot. In late May it turns blue with Rocky Mountain Iris; then Broad-tailed Hummingbirds hold aerial birdfights to protect their feeding territories. In August it again turns blue, but this time with Chiricahua Delphiniums, which attract hundreds of Rufous Hummingbirds. The most unforgettable sight of all is to see a band of Turkeys strutting across the meadow at dawn.

From the campground a trail leads up the ridge and then forks. The left fork goes through the Chiricahua Wilderness to the top of Chiricahua Peak (9795 feet). This is an all-day hike, but very rewarding. Along the way you will pass extensive stands of Engelmann Spruce, where Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets nest. The right fork goes 1.5 miles to Barfoot Peak, a much easier hike and almost as rewarding.

The **Barfoot Peak Trail** goes along just under the ridge, so you have a tree-top view of the slopes below. This is great for seeing Olive, Yellow-rumped, and Grace's Warblers; Western and Hepatic Tanagers; Red Crossbills; and other birds that are always out of sight in the tree-tops. When you sit down to rest, watch for a small brown lizard that darts about among the fallen logs and bunches of grass. This is the Bunch Grass Lizard, another of those exotic Mexican species.

The view from the lookout at the top of Barfoot Peak makes the hike even more worthwhile. From here you can see the Sulphur Springs Valley, the whole of the Chiricahuas, a good part of New Mexico, and mountains far, far away in Mexico.

The best way to return to the campground is to continue on for about a third of a mile to the Barfoot Park Road. The trail comes out near the aspen grove. From here you can walk back along the road, where you are bound to see many other birds. The round trip is about 3 miles.

If you can force yourself to leave Rustler Park, return to Onion Saddle and turn left — west — down through the oak belt on the other side of the mountain. For the first mile or so, the road is narrow, winding, and a bit of a cliff-hanger, but it soon improves.

The **Pinery Canyon Campground** (2.0 miles below the saddle) is a good place to find the Gray-sided Chickadee, Red-faced Warbler, and Brown-throated Wren. Continue past the upper section, which is on the right as you make a sharp curve, and stop at the lower section, where you will see a huge Gambel's Oak on the right and a long-needled Apache Pine on the left. The clearing beyond the pine is often productive. A few squeaks or owl hoots will usually bring out a swarm of birds.

From here on the birds are about the same as those observed on the other side, but as a rule not so abundant. At the junction of State Highway 181 (12.0 miles from saddle), turn right toward the **Chiricahua National Monument** (1.0 mile), which is often called the Wonderland of Rocks.

When these mountains were being formed by erupting volcanoes, this area was covered by a very thick layer of ash, which solidified into a slab of fine-grained rock called rhyolite. As is typical of this type of formation, the

rhyolite cracked into hexagonal columns. But here the columns were hundreds of feet high. During the eons that followed, the wind and the rain widened the cracks, so now many of the columns are free-standing. One is over 300 feet high and only 3 feet thick at the base! Other of the columns are eroded into weird shapes, which resemble grotesque stone men or animals. As you follow the road through this wonderland where hundreds of balanced rocks tower overhead, you can speculate as to what would happen during an earthquake.

Stop at the visitors' center for a checklist and information about trails, campgrounds, and the history of this unique area. An easy way to learn the trees is to take the short nature trail from the parking lot. Also watch for an Apache Squirrel. As you drive up the canyon, check the Organ Formation for Prairie Falcons. A pair have nested here for several years. Grace's Warblers can sometimes be found in the fine stand of Arizona Cypress along the stream. If you have time to hike the Natural Bridge Trail, you will pass a grove of Chihuahuas Pines that can be good for flycatchers. At the end of the road to Masai Point (7.0 miles), there is another nature trail and a fine view of the Monument.

After leaving the Monument, Highway 181 crosses a fine grassland dotted with Soap-tree Yucca. Watch for Swainson's Hawk, Scaled Quail, Scott's Oriole, White-necked Raven, Eastern Meadowlark, and sparrows. Aplomado Falcons formerly nested in the yuccas.

Where the grass has been overgrazed, there are patches of mesquite. You will notice that nearly every bush has a mound under it. These are made by Banner-tailed and Merriam's Kangaroo Rats. Where the mesquite has been removed, these mounds still persist and are often erroneously accredited to prairie dogs. However, the last prairie dogs were poisoned in 1927 during a Federal rodent-control program.

Highway 186 (4.0 miles) goes northwest to Interstate 10 at Willcox (31.0 miles). If you take this route, be sure to stop at the **Twin Lakes Golf Course** on the south edge of town. Watch on the left for the city sewage ponds, which should be checked, and turn left — west — just beyond the sewage plant at a faded sign for the Country Club Estates. The two ponds on the golf course and the larger lake beyond are excellent for shorebirds and Mexican Ducks.

To continue the tour stay on Highway 181 until it ends at Highway 666 (22.6 miles). Gas and food are available at Sunizona, 3 blocks to the north.

Highway 666 runs through the heart of the huge **Sulphur Springs Valley**, a landlocked basin that drains into a large, and usually dry, alkaline lake known as the Willcox Playa (20 miles north). This former grassland is rapidly being converted into farmland, and the birds are changing. There are few birds here in summer, but in migration seasons there may be a few shorebirds or ducks at the playa. The valley is at its best in winter, when it swarms with birds.

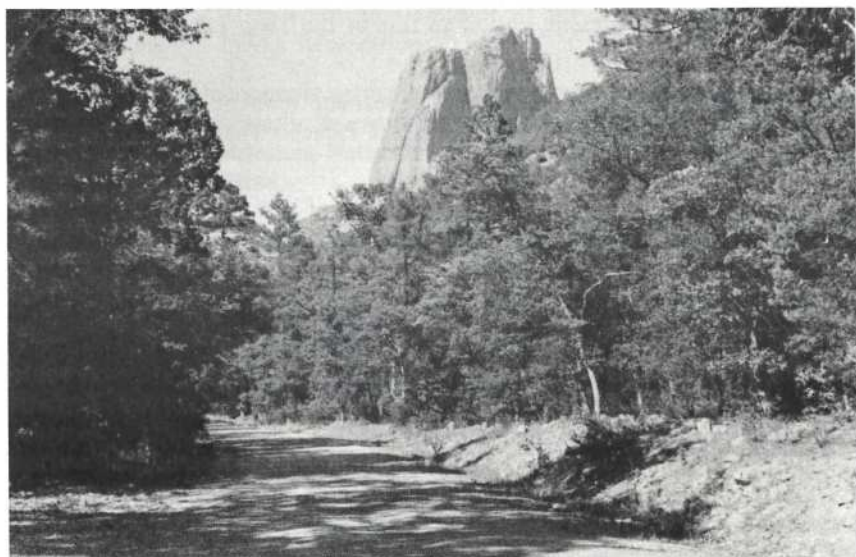
Some of the winter birds are Goshawk (uncommon); Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Ferruginous Hawks; Say's Phoebe; White-necked Raven; Mountain Bluebird; Water Pipit; Pine Siskin; Lark Bunting;

Savannah, Vesper, Lark, Cassin's, Chipping, Brewer's, White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows; and Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs.

At this point, you have a choice of routes. To finish the present loop, turn left and continue to Douglas (40.4 miles). Or you can turn right and go north to Interstate 10 (25.4 miles). If you are planning to take the Huachuca Mountains Loop next, you should turn left and go 14.0 miles to Elfrida (Al-FREE-dah). Here you again have choices of how to get to Sierra Vista. Just north of town, there is a dirt road that goes via Gleason and Tombstone (24.5 miles). This is a long, dusty road with few birds, but it is still interesting. At the south end of Elfrida, you can take the Double Adobe Road to Sierra Vista via Bisbee.

There are campgrounds in Cave Creek Canyon, Rucker Canyon, Pinery Canyon, and in the Chiricahua National Monument. No showers anywhere.

Douglas and Lordsburg have motels and restaurants. At Portal, there is no place to eat except at the Southwestern Research Station, Portal, AZ 85632 - phone 602 558-2396, and then only if you are a guest. However, there are two very nice housekeeping motels, both of which feed the birds but not the people - The Cathedral Rock Lodge, Portal, AZ 85632 - phone 602 558-2365 and The Cave Creek Ranch, Portal, AZ 85632 - phone 602 558-2334.



South Fork Road

SPECIALTIES OF SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

Listed below are some of the species found in Southeastern Arizona that may be of particular interest to out-of-area birders. Information is given as to abundance, habitat, distribution, and when possible, specific locations where each can be found.

Least Grebe — Very rare straggler to ponds and lakes near the Mexican border from Nogales westward. Your chances of finding this bird are nil.

Neotropical Cormorant — Rare straggler to ponds and lakes in the Nogales area such as Kinsley Lakes, Kino Springs, and Peña Blanca Lake. Unlikely to be found, but one does show up every year or so. In winter, the Double-crested Cormorant may also occur, although it too is rare here.

Ducks and Geese — Not a conspicuous part of the bird life due to the lack of water. In winter and migration, can be found in such places as Peña Blanca Lake, Kinsley Lakes, Tucson Sewage Ponds, Sierra Vista Sewage Ponds, Parker Canyon Lake, St. David Ponds, and Picacho Reservoir.

Black-bellied Tree Duck — Rare summer visitor, occasional in winter. Has been found at tree-lined ponds such as the Drive-in Theater Pond at Nogales, Kinsley Lakes, Kino Springs, and ponds at St. David.

Mexican Duck — Rare permanent resident, but it is being stocked at various locations in the area. Has occurred at the San Bernardino Ranch, in the Animas Valley, on ponds north of Rodeo, at San Simon Marsh, and along the San Pedro River. At present, easiest to find at the Twin Lakes Golf Course in Willcox.

Black Vulture — Rare but increasing permanent resident of the Santa Cruz Valley and adjacent deserts. Has nested at Picacho Peak. Often seen along Santa Gertrudis Lane.

Northern Goshawk — Rare permanent resident of the mountains, more widespread in winter. Has nested in the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains. Most often seen soaring over the forests.

Swainson's Hawk — Common summer resident of the grasslands. Has been found near Sonoita, Canelo, Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Elfrida, east of Douglas, and many other locations. You should have little trouble with this one.

Zone-tailed Hawk — Uncommon summer resident, occasional in winter. Nests in tall trees mainly in the live-oak belt or pinyon forest. Often forages over the grasslands and brushlands along the lower slopes of the mountains, occasionally over the peaks. Has nested in many of the mountains and canyons. Because of increased pressure from photographers and falconers, the nesting sites of hawks should be kept as secret as possible. However, you might try asking local birders.

Rough-legged Hawk — Uncommon winter visitor to grasslands and less commonly to the deserts. Can usually be found in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Ferruginous Hawk — Uncommon winter visitor to grasslands and deserts. A few summer records.

Gray Hawk — Uncommon summer resident of riparian woodlands at lower elevations, mainly along the Santa Cruz River and its tributaries. Many nests have been destroyed by falconers, photographers, and birders. Please do not go near the nest. View the birds from a distance.

Bay-winged Hawk — Uncommon permanent resident of the mesquite and thorny brushlands of the Sonoran Desert, occasionally elsewhere. Has been found on the Papago Indian Reservation south and west of Tucson, but more commonly north of town. Can usually be found along Highway 89 somewhere between the northern edge of Tucson and Florence.

Common Black Hawk — Rare summer resident of riparian woodlands at lower elevations. Because of harassment, this hawk has been depleted as a nester in Southern Arizona, although it is still fairly common in Central Arizona. Ask local birders for information.

Golden Eagle — Uncommon permanent resident of mountains and broken country where cliffs are available for nesting. More widespread in winter. Most often seen soaring overhead in the mountains, or hunting for rabbits and squirrels in the nearby grasslands and deserts.

Crested Caracara — Rare permanent resident of the Sonoran Desert, particularly on the Papago Indian Reservation.

Prairie Falcon — Uncommon permanent resident near cliffs. Often feeds over the grasslands, particularly in winter. Has nested for years in the Organ Formation at the Chiricahua National Monument. Because of falconers, other known sites are not listed.

Aplomado Falcon — Very rare summer resident. Recently reported near Hereford.

Mississippi Kite — Rare summer resident of riparian woodlands in Central Arizona along the San Pedro River.

Scaled Quail — Common permanent resident of the grasslands and the Chihuahuan Desert. Can be found in lower part of Madera Canyon, near Hereford on the San Pedro River, Sulphur Springs Valley, east of Douglas, below Portal, and many other areas.

Gambel's Quail — Common permanent resident of the lower deserts, particularly in areas of mesquite. Easy to find at the Desert Museum.

Montezuma Quail — Uncommon permanent resident of open grassy oak woodlands in all mountain ranges. The first one can be exasperatingly hard to find, then they pop up in many places. Often seen at the edge of a road, particularly in the evening. Instead of flying when a car approaches, this bird squats. Look for little bumps along the side of the road. It has frequently been found just above the Van Metre Road in Madera Canyon, along Highway 289 (Ruby Road) between Interstate 19 and Peña Blanca Lake, around Peña Blanca Lake, along Highway 82 between the Nogales Airport and the rest area below Patagonia, lower part of Ramsey and Miller Canyons, and many other locations. Usually silent, but in early summer can sometimes be heard singing from after sunset until dark.

Elegant Quail — Accidental. Most records are probably of escaped birds; however, it occurs natively in the brushlands of Sonora. Nested on the west side of Nogales during the mid-1960s. The most recent record was in 1973 along the Border Road at Paul's Spur west of Bisbee.

Turkey — Reintroduced into all of the higher mountains. Now an uncommon permanent resident of the higher oak woodlands and pine forest in the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains. Often seen near Rustler Park.

Shorebirds — Mostly migrant; some winter. Found at sewage ponds in Nogales, Sierra Vista, and Tucson; irrigated fields in the Santa Cruz and Sulphur Springs Valleys; and around lakes, such as Parker Canyon, Patagonia, Peña Blanca, and Twin Lakes at Willcox.

Band-tailed Pigeon — Fairly common permanent resident of wooded areas in the mountains. Less common and more widespread in winter. The nesting and feeding habits of pigeons are irregular, so it is difficult to predict just where and when these birds may be found. Most are seen flying overhead as along Sonoita Creek.

White-winged Dove — Common summer resident of the deserts and lower oak woodlands. A few winter, particularly near Tucson. Hard to miss in such areas as the Desert Museum, Saguaro National Monument, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Guadalupe Canyon, and Cave Creek Canyon.

Ground Dove — Fairly common permanent resident of better-watered valleys at lower elevations. Avoids populated areas. Can be found along the Santa Cruz, San Pedro, and San Simon Rivers. A few specific locations are the sewage ponds at Tucson, near Continental, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Hereford, and Cienega Lake.

Inca Dove — Common permanent resident in cities at lower elevations. Avoids unpopulated areas. Easy to find in city parks in Tucson.

Thick-billed Parrot — Not recorded in over 50 years.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Uncommon summer resident of riparian growth at lower elevations. Usually arrives about second week of June. Easy to find at Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.

Greater Roadrunner — Common permanent resident of deserts, brushlands, and brushy grasslands below 4,000 feet; occasionally higher. Often seen along back roads.

Barn Owl — Uncommon permanent resident of old buildings, canyons, and cliffs at lower elevations. Not often seen, but your best bet is to drive the back roads through the farmlands at night.

Common Screech-owl — Common permanent resident of saguaros, riparian woodlands, and open oak woodlands. Seems to avoid the dense oak woodlands occupied by the Whiskered Screech-owl, occurring either below it or on the dry hillsides above it. The easiest way to find this owl is to lure it into view with a tape-recording of its call.

Whiskered Screech-owl — Common permanent resident of dense oak woodlands. With the aid of a tape-recorder, it is easy to find in the Santa Rita Mountains in Madera Canyon anywhere from the lower picnic area to the upper end of the road and beyond; at the end of the road in Ramsey or Miller Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains; in Cave Creek Canyon above the ranger station or at Pinery Canyon Campground in the Chiricahua Mountains; and in the Catalina Mountains above the Molino Basin Campground. This owl has several different calls. In addition to the very characteristic "Morse code" call, it gives a call very similar to that of the Western Screech-owl. An assortment of single hoots and gurgles may also be heard. Some of this diversity can be attributed to the difference in the calls of the male and female.

Flammulated Screech-owl — Common but rarely seen summer resident of the pine forests and the upper oak woodlands, usually where the trees are large, as along streams. Found in the upper end of Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, upper end of Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, the South Fork Trail in the Chiricahua Mountains, and elsewhere.

When feeding at dawn or dusk, it is usually silent. During the rest of the night when it is less active, it will often sit on the same perch and hoot for hours. However, its call is easily missed because it consists of a single low toot given at regular intervals, and the intervals may be 5 seconds or more long.

Although this owl will answer an imitation of its call readily, it will seldom show itself. However, if you will call to the bird and walk away at the same time, it will usually follow you to the edge of its territory. By walking back and forth across its area, you can maneuver the bird into a favorable position.

Northern Pygmy-owl — Uncommon permanent resident throughout the mountains, more common in summer at higher elevations. Although this owl responds well to imitations of its call both day and night and at any season, it has a very large territory of a mile or so and can be easily missed. Your chances of hearing it call are best at dawn, although it may answer at midday. The best way to find one is to drive a mountain road at dawn and stop every half-mile to play its call. Sooner or later, one will answer.

Ferruginous Pygmy-owl — Rare and local resident at lower elevations. Most records are for the summer. The best way of finding this bird is to ask the local birders for information. Some recent sightings have been along Highway 80 just north of Rodeo, New Mexico; near the visitors' center at Sabino Canyon; in northeast Tucson, and along Gates Pass Road below and east of the pass. In June, where present, this owl sings both day and night.

Elf Owl — Common summer resident of saguaros, sycamores, and poles from the deserts to the lower slopes of the mountains. Does not respond well to imitations of its call, but since it is a noisy bird, you will have little trouble finding it anyway. Easy to find at Saguaro National Monument, Sabino Canyon, Madera Canyon, Cave Creek Canyon, and elsewhere. For years, one has lived in a telephone pole at the Santa Rita Lodge and going out to see it is a nightly ritual with birders.

Burrowing Owl — Rare and local permanent resident of the deserts. Has been found along the Santa Cruz River at Cortaro Road and along Highway 80, some 1 to 5 miles west of Rodeo.

Spotted Owl — Uncommon permanent resident of dense coniferous forest and cool, well-wooded canyons with water. Usually roosts in thick clumps of second-growth pine or fir. Absent from areas occupied by the Great Horned Owl. Each pair has a large territory of a square mile or so. Your chances of finding this bird are not good. Some locations where it has been heard are above the end of the road in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains; upper Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains; and along the South Fork Trail in the Chiricahua Mountains. For several years a pair has nested above the Cave Creek Ranch at the head of the Spotted Owl Trail, a short half-mile hike right up the side of the cliff.

As with most owls, this one has a variety of calls. Most of the guides describe the call as sounding like the barking of a small dog. When this particular call is heard, it is so distinctive that it cannot be forgotten; however, this call is not often heard. The call most frequently used sounds like that of the Barred Owl, only slightly sharper.

Long-eared Owl — Uncommon permanent resident in thick growth at lower elevations. More common in winter. In winter this bird usually roosts in thick junipers or sometimes in ornamental conifers about houses or farms. Your chances of finding this bird are not good.

Whip-poor-will — Common summer resident in dense woodlands in the mountains. Easy to find in any of the wooded canyons of the "Mexican Mountains", as in Madera, Miller, or Cave Creek Canyons. Hearing this bird is easier than seeing it. It feeds as much low among the trees as in the clearings and usually lands on a low limb rather than on the ground.

Buff-collared Nightjar — Rare summer resident of juniper-covered, rocky hill-sides. Although fairly common just south of the border, in the United States it is known only from Guadalupe Canyon, where it was discovered in 1958. Its insect-like call sounds more like that of a katydid than of a bird. Few people have found this bird, but the Magoffins, who live in the canyon, report hearing it nearly every year.

Poor-will — Common summer resident on dry, warm slopes with open brush. A few in winter. Its very low, soft call is given only occasionally. Feeding is done from the ground in a clearing, roadway, or along a trail. The daytime roost is usually on the ground in the shade of a dense bush on a hillside. The Poor-will is usually found at lower elevations than the Whip-poor-will, although both birds may be heard calling from the same clearing.

The way to find this bird is to drive back roads through the brushlands at night and watch for its bright orange eyeshine on the road. Some good roads to try are in Sabino Canyon, Madera Canyon below the lower picnic ground, any road along the San Pedro River, and roads near Portal, such as the Paradise Road.

Common Nighthawk — Common migrant through the higher grasslands. Rare and local summer resident of the high grasslands in the Huachuca and Peloncillos Mountains, occasionally elsewhere. If you see a nighthawk feeding high in the air over the mountains, it will probably be this species.

Lesser Nighthawk — Abundant summer resident at lower elevations. A few winter records. If you miss this bird at the proper season, you are not trying. It often occurs by the hundreds in the evening over lakes, about street lights in small towns, and along roadways across the desert. Feeding is usually done at dusk and dawn and fairly near the ground.

White-throated Swift — Common permanent resident about cliffs at all elevations. Less active in cold weather. Once the twittering call is learned, this bird can be found easily in such areas as Sabino Canyon, Gates Pass, Madera Canyon, upper Carr Canyon, Montezuma Pass in the Coronado National Monument, Chiricahua National Monument, and Cave Creek Canyon.

Lucifer Hummingbird — Rare straggler to the "Mexican Mountains". Most records are for late July, August, and early September and from the lower slopes of the mountains. Most often seen at feeders. Some recent records are from the Santa Rita Lodge, Ramsey Canyon, Coronado National Monument, and Cave Creek Canyon.

Black-chinned Hummingbird — Common summer resident on the desert and lower mountain slopes. Usually near water. The most common and widespread of the hummingbirds in this area. Should not be hard to find. Common at feeders, such as those at the Santa Rita Lodge, Ramsey Canyon, and Cave Creek Canyon.

Costa's Hummingbird — In wet years when the desert blooms, can be quite common in late February, March, and April on the low deserts, where it nests. After nesting, it begins to disperse in May and is usually gone by July. May appear at higher elevations in May and June. In the spring, it can usually be found in Sabino Canyon, Saguaro National Monument, Tucson Mountain Park, and Florida Canyon.

Anna's Hummingbird — Formerly a rare fall and early winter migrant as far east as the Huachuca Mountains. In recent years, it has increased and is now a fairly common fall migrant to the deserts near Phoenix and Tucson and has been found as far east as the Chiricahua Mountains and beyond. There are now nesting records in January and February from Phoenix, Tucson, and the Catalina Mountains. Although rare between March and October, there are an increasing number of records for the summer. Due to the number of feeders and exotic plants in the cities, this bird may soon become a common year-round species. Your best chance of seeing it is at a feeder in the city.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird — Common summer resident of the coniferous forests of the higher mountains. Less common along streams in the oak woodlands. The high-pitched, insect-like buzz made by the wings of the male is heard more often than the bird is seen. However, it is common at feeders in Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek Canyons. When the iris bloom in late May and June, the mountain meadows, as in Rustler Park, may swarm with fighting males.

Rufous Hummingbird — Uncommon spring migrant in the lowlands; abundant fall migrant in the mountains. From late July until October, it may be seen at feeders in Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek Canyons. When the delphiniums are in bloom from late July until mid-September, the mountain meadows may swarm with these golden fighters.

Allen's Hummingbird — Status uncertain. Since immature Rufous and Allen's are almost impossible to separate in the field, this bird may get by undetected. Apparently an uncommon fall migrant from late July to October in the mountains. Most records are from the Huachuca Mountains westward. Look for it at feeders in Madera and Ramsey Canyons.

Bumblebee Hummingbird — Rare straggler to the "Mexican Mountains" in late summer. Most records are from feeders in the Huachuca Mountains. Since this bird is difficult to separate from other small hummers, it may be more common than indicated.

The first thing which one normally notices about a Bumblebee Hummingbird is the tiny size. Then the very small bill (about the same length as the head) and the *brown in the tail* may be noted. If it is a male with a purple gorget, you should check for a white-tipped tail, which none of the other small males has. If it is a female or immature, and most of them are, you have problems.

Like the females of many small hummers, the female Bumblebee has a grayish-white belly, rufous-tinged flanks, and a spotted white throat. The spots on the throat are bronzy green or gray (Rufous and Allen's have reddish spots). The female Calliope is very similar. However, the female Bumblebee has a slightly shorter bill and tail, which gives the bird a plumper look, and *the tips of its tail are often buffy rather than white*.

Plain-capped Startthroat — One record from Nogales.

Calliope Hummingbird — Uncommon fall migrant in the mountains. Occasionally seen at feeders.

Magnificent Hummingbird — Fairly common summer resident of riparian woodlands in the mountains. Cool, moist canyons in the upper part of the live-oak belt seem to be the preferred habitat, but it is found elsewhere. Common at feeders in Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek Canyons, although it does not seem to be dependent upon flowers for food. Responds well to squeaks or owl calls. You should have little trouble in finding this beautiful bird.

Berylline Hummingbird — Very rare straggler to the "Mexican Mountains" in late summer. Recorded from feeders in Ramsey and Cave Creek Canyons. Nested successfully at the Southwestern Research Station in 1976.

Blue-throated Hummingbird — Fairly common summer resident of riparian woodlands in the live-oak belt of the mountains. Common at feeders in Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek Canyons. However, you can find it in many other areas by coaxing it out with an owl call or squeak. Its presence is usually announced by a loud, piercing call note that sounds like "seep". Should not be hard to find.

Amethyst-throated Hummingbird — There are at least two reports of this bird, one from Ramsey Canyon and one from Cave Creek Canyon, neither confirmed. Both birds may be simply hybrids.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird — Uncommon summer resident in Guadalupe Canyon. More common as a late summer visitor to the riparian woodlands of the lower mountain slopes. Has been found in the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains and at Sonoita Creek. Your best chance of seeing one in May or June is in Guadalupe Canyon. After that, they can be found at feeders in Ramsey or Cave Creek Canyons.

White-eared Hummingbird — Rare summer visitor to the “Mexican Mountains”, mainly in late July and August. Although it is often found at feeders in Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek Canyons, this is basically a bird of the pine forests. Look for it high in the mountains on the cool north slopes, where penstemons are still blooming in late summer, as along the roads to Mount Lemmon and Barfoot Park.

Broad-billed Hummingbird — Common summer resident in riparian woodlands of mesquite, sycamore, and cottonwood along the lower parts of the mountains. Easily found in the lower parts of Madera, Ramsey, Miller, and Cave Creek Canyons, particularly at feeders. Also found at Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, near Hereford on the San Pedro River, and the San Simon Marsh. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls.

Elegant Trogon — Rare, but often seen, summer resident of the “Mexican Mountains.” Although its numbers fluctuate from year to year, it appears to be increasing since it was given protection from collectors. Nearly all of the population was wiped out prior to and during World War II. Now it is reappearing in many canyons that were previously occupied and a few new ones! It avoids areas with houses. The total population probably does not exceed 12 to 15 pairs, and some of these are threatened by harassment from photographers and careless birders.

Although the trogon ranges widely up and down the canyons in search of food, it normally nests in the oak-pine belt between 6000 and 7000 feet. The nest is usually in a hole in a sycamore. Some known nesting areas are the upper part of Madera, Josephine, and Gardner Canyons in the Santa Rita Mountains; upper Ramsey, Miller, Copper, and Scotia Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains; and Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains. As usual, most of the better spots can be reached only by hiking. The sites that are hardest to reach are those in Josephine and Gardner Canyons. Those in the Huachuca Mountains are fairly easy to reach, but are not always occupied. Your best bet is to try for those in Madera or Cave Creek Canyons. In Madera Canyon, there is usually one pair a mile or two up the Mount Wrightson Trail and another pair along the stream a mile or so above the Roundup Campground. The only area where the trogon is frequently seen along the road is in Cave Creek Canyon. Here one pair ranges along the South Fork Road and as far down canyon as the campgrounds. Another pair, or perhaps the same pair, can be found a mile or so up the South Fork Trail.

The trogon is usually located by its rather soft but far-reaching call. The call, a series of 6 or 7 notes like those of a hen turkey or a pig, is very distinctive, but apparently hard to describe. The various field guides report it as kowm, koa, coa, cory, or co-wy. Anyway, you will know it when you hear it, and the trogon will respond to any imitation that is even close. If you use a tape-recorder, remember to play it rather softly, or the bird may answer but not come near enough to be seen.

Even after it is heard, the trogon can still be hard to find. How a foot-long, brightly-colored bird can conceal itself so well is a mystery, but a mystery that is a delight to solve.

Green Kingfisher — Rare straggler to tree-lined ponds and streams along the Santa Cruz River drainage, mainly in fall and winter. If you want to see this bird, go to Texas or Mexico. Your chances here are almost nil.

Common Flicker — Common permanent resident. Easy to find. The Red-shafted race prefers the mountain woodlands, but comes down to the deserts in winter. The Gilded race is found mainly in stands of saguaro.

Acorn Woodpecker — Abundant permanent resident wherever oak woodlands are found. If you miss this bird in places like Molino Basin, Madera Canyon, or Cave Creek Canyon, you are not really birding.

Williamson's Sapsucker — Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in the Ponderosa Pines. Most common in the Chiricahua Mountains and in the month of April.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker — Common permanent resident of the cactus and brushlands of the deserts, riparian woodlands, and the more arid oak woodlands. Fairly easy to find in such areas as Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Monument, Sabino Canyon, and in the lower parts of all of the canyons of the mountains.

Brown-backed Woodpecker — Fairly common, but not easy to find, permanent resident of the live-oak woodlands, usually on the drier slopes between 4500 and 7000 feet. Found in most of the mountain ranges. Some known sites are Molino Basin in the Catalinas; Madera and Gardner Canyons in the Santa Ritas; nearly all canyons in the Huachuclas; and Rucker, Pinery, and Cave Creek Canyons in the Chiricahuas. In Madera Canyon, most often found in the area between the lodge and the ranger station and along the Bog Springs Trail. In the Chiricahuas, quite common on the hillsides along the road between the research station and Onion Saddle.

In habit and voice, it is similar to the Hairy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, both of which occur within its range. Its whinny call is quite distinctive, but seldom heard. The most frequently heard call is a single note like that of a Hairy, but shriller.

As with most woodpeckers, this bird is usually found when one is not looking for it. This is true partly because most birders spend little time in its preferred habitat, the arid oak woodlands on the dry hillsides where other birds are not common. Although this bird will sometimes respond if you tap a tree with a rock, there is little you can do to attract it, except during the mating season. During May and early June, it responds well to recordings of its calls and tapings.

Rose-throated Becard — Rare summer resident. Although it once nested in Guadalupe Canyon, nearly all records are from Sonoita Creek near Patagonia. Recent nesting sites have been on the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Circle Z Ranch, and below Lake Patagonia. Ask the local birders.

The long swinging nest is suspended from the drooping end of a branch. Those found on the Circle Z are usually about 20 feet or more above the ground in a sycamore. In the sanctuary the nests are often 100 feet up in the canopy of the towering cottonwoods.

Cassin's Kingbird — Common summer resident in riparian woodlands, most abundant in the mountain canyons. Hard to miss in such areas as Madera Canyon, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, and Cave Creek Canyon. You will soon be saying, "It's just another Cassin's."

Western Kingbird — Common summer resident of open country where there are a few high bushes, telephone poles, or trees. Often found along roadside fences or in trees about farm houses. You should have little trouble with this one.

Tropical Kingbird — Rare summer resident of woodlands along streams and about ponds at lower elevations. Most records are from the Santa Cruz Valley, a few from the San Pedro Valley. Has been found at the Kingsley Lakes, Drive-In Theater Pond at Nogales, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, and especially along Santa Gertrudis Lane near Tumacacori.

Thick-billed Kingbird — Rare but increasing summer resident of riparian woodlands at lower elevations. Nests in sycamores or cottonwoods. Has been found near the corral on Van Metre Road in Madera Canyon and along Sonoita Creek. It was first discovered in the U.S. in Guadalupe Canyon in 1958, and that is still the best place to find it.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher — Uncommon summer resident in the sycamores of the mountain canyons. Does not usually arrive until late May. Has been found in Madera and Gardner Canyons in the Santa Ritas; Ramsey, Carr, Miller, and Copper Canyon in the Huachucas; and Pinery and Cave Creek Canyons in the Chiricahuas. Not hard to find in mid-summer.

Brown-crested Flycatcher — Fairly common summer resident in the saguaros on the desert and in the sycamores of the lower canyons. Normally nests below the range of the Sulphur-bellied. Can be found in Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Monument, Sabino Canyon, lower Madera Canyon, Guadalupe Canyon, and elsewhere.

Ash-throated Flycatcher — Common summer resident of the deserts and lower slopes. Nests in holes in saguaros, posts, cottonwoods, sycamores, other trees. Most common in the brushlands and open, arid woodlands. Not hard to find, but may be hard to separate from the Brown-crested.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher — Common summer resident of the live-oak belt in all of the mountain ranges. Its "mournful Pierre" call is heard in all of the mountain canyons. You should have little trouble in finding this bird.

Black Phoebe — Common permanent resident near permanent water at lower elevations. Needs water, but the water may be anything from a horse trough to a river. Frequently nests under bridges. Has been found in Sabino Canyon; bridges over the Santa Cruz River, as at Continental; Sonoita Creek Sanctuary; San Pedro River, as at Hereford; San Simon Marsh; Peña Blanca Lake; and many other areas. Not hard to find.

Say's Phoebe — Common permanent resident from the deserts and grasslands to the lower slopes of the mountains. Nests in rocky canyons, on cliffs, and under eaves of buildings. More abundant and widespread in winter, when it can be found in weedy fields, grasslands, and open brushlands. Often nests under the eaves of the cabins at the Southwestern Research Station.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher — Rare summer resident of riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, Chihuahua and Ponderosa Pines, and perhaps other habitats of the mountains. This bird is rare and erratic. It can even be hard to find in Mexico. Some former nesting sites are in live oaks in Carr Canyon at about 5500 feet, live oaks behind the research station in Cave Creek Canyon at 5800 feet, and in the Ponderosa Pines at Rustler Park at 8500 feet.

In favorable habitat in Mexico, this bird often nests in loose colonies of 4 or 5 pairs. Two such colonies have recently been found in the Huachuca Mountains, one below the Scout Camp in Garden Canyon on Fort Huachuca and the other in Scotia Canyon (page 48). Both colonies are in Chihuahua Pines, and both have been active for several years. To visit the Garden Canyon site, you must obtain permission from the Land Management Office on the Fort.

Gray, Dusky, and Hammond's Flycatchers — Uncommon winter visitors at lower elevations. All have been found at the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary and elsewhere. More common as migrants.

Western Flycatcher — Uncommon summer resident of moist forests at higher elevations, as in the spruce forests on Mount Lemmon. Often nests under the eaves of cabins, as in Rustler Park. Common and confusing late-summer migrant through the pine belt.

Willow Flycatcher — Fairly common migrant in late May and early June and again in August and September. A few nest in areas of dense willows, as at the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary and behind the cabins at the Southwestern Research Station.

Greater Pewee — Common summer resident of the pines and pine-oak woodlands of the higher mountains. Its rather large nesting territory may include

adjacent riparian woodland and brushy slopes. Usually feeds from the end of a limb in a typical pewee fashion; however, it seems to prefer taller trees than those used by the Western Pewee. Once its very distinctive, pewee-like, "Jose Maria" (Ho-SAY Mah-REE-ah) call is learned, this bird is frequently heard. Listen for it in such areas as along the Mount Lemmon Road from Bear Canyon up to about Bear Wallow; Madera Canyon; Miller Canyon and others in the Huachuclas; and Pinery and South Fork Canyons and Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas.

Western Pewee — Abundant summer resident of the pines, oaks, and riparian woodlands of the mountains and high plains. This bird is so common, conspicuous, and noisy that it is almost impossible to miss in the proper season, particularly in the early morning and evenings. Of course, there are bound to be a few birdwatchers who can do it.

Vermilion Flycatcher — Common permanent resident near water at lower elevations, particularly in areas of mesquite, willows, and cottonwoods along the Santa Cruz River and its tributaries. Less common in winter, especially in the higher and more eastern sectors. In summer this bird is probably more common along Sonoita Creek than in any other place in the United States. It is also found in such areas as Sabino Canyon, about Peña Blanca and Kinsley Lakes, San Pedro River, Guadalupe Canyon, and San Simon Marsh.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet — Uncommon summer resident in areas of mesquite, willows, and cottonwoods along water-courses at lower elevations. Hard to find and even harder to identify. A few winter. Most often found along the San Pedro and Santa Cruz Rivers and at the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.

This tiny bird is so nondescript that it is often passed off as a verdin or something else. Even when feeding, it seldom acts like a flycatcher, but flutters around like a warbler or a vireo. The surest means of identification is its call, but the bird is not very vocal. On the rare occasions when it sings, the song is often given from the very tip top of the tallest tree around, where the bird is almost impossible to see.

Violet-green Swallow — Common summer resident of the mountains. Nests in woodpecker holes, on cliffs, or in rocky canyons. Easy to find in all areas of coniferous forests, as on Mount Lemmon, Rustler Park, and the tops of the other mountains that must be reached by hiking. Also found in upper Sabino and Cave Creek Canyons, where there are cliffs.

Steller's Jay — Common permanent resident of the coniferous forests. Easy to find on Mount Lemmon, Rustler Park, and on the tops of other high mountains. Sometimes lower in winter.

The three species of jays found in Southeastern Arizona are rather restricted to particular habitats. Their ranges seldom overlap. Whether this is

due to competition or to habitat requirements is not fully understood. The Steller's Jay occurs in the coniferous forests, usually above 7000 feet. The Mexican Jay is found in the live-oak belt between 4500 and 7500 feet, while the Scrub Jay prefers the chaparral below 5000 feet.

Scrub Jay — Uncommon and local permanent resident of the brushlands below the range of the Mexican Jay. Lower and more widespread in winter. Lack of chaparral and competition from the Gray-breasted Jay makes the Scrub Jay quite rare in the "Mexican Mountains." It is more common in the mountains of Central Arizona, where there is more brush and fewer Gray-breasted Jays. In Southeastern Arizona, it can be found in the Pinaleno (Graham) Mountains and along the northern slopes of the Catalina Mountains. There are also small groups in Molino Basin, along the Paradise Road in the Chiricahuas, and along the Geronimo Trail in the Peloncillo Mountains.

Gray-breasted Jay — Common resident of the live-oak belt of the "Mexican Mountains", north sparingly to the basin below the Mogollon Rim. Easy to find in such areas as Madera Canyon, all canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, and Pinery and upper Cave Creek Canyons. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls. You should have little trouble with this one.

This noisy jay has some unique habits. It travels about all year in a flock of a dozen or so birds, sometimes as many as 50. The communal nests are tended by three or more adults, and any member of the flock may feed the young. This altruistic behavior is shown when one member of the flock is injured. The other birds will come down and try to help it fly, feed it, and attack anything approaching it.

Northern Raven — Uncommon permanent resident of the deserts and mountains in areas where cliffs or rocky canyons are available for nesting. More widespread in winter. Does not often occur on the grasslands, where the White-necked Raven is common, but often enough to keep the birder confused.

White-necked Raven — Common permanent resident of the grasslands on the high plains from the Santa Rita Mountains eastward. Less common on the arid grasslands west of the Santa Rita Mountains and in winter. Nests on tall yuccas, mesquite bushes, windmills, and telephone poles. Easy to find on the plains south and east of Sonoita, and in the San Pedro Valley east of the Huachuca Mountains, between Bisbee and Douglas in the Sulphur Springs Valley, and south and east of the Chiricahua Mountains.

Finding this bird is not difficult, but seeing the white on its neck is. Unless the white is seen, the beginning birder may not be sure if he is seeing a White-necked Raven or not. After a few sightings, the smaller size and flatter call will be enough to separate this bird from the Common Raven, which is uncommon on the grasslands. At present, the Common Crow is accidental in Southeastern Arizona.

Gray-sided Chickadee — Uncommon permanent resident of the coniferous forests of the Chiricahua Mountains. Has been reported from the Huachuca Mountains, but it is not known to be a resident there. Easiest to find in Rustler Park, along the trail to the Chiricahua Wilderness Area, and in Pinery Canyon.

Mountain Chickadee — Common permanent resident of the coniferous forests of the Catalina and Pinaleno Mountains and northward. Lower and more widespread in winter. Has been reported from the Huachuca Mountains, but it is not known to be regular there. Easiest to find along the Mount Lemmon Road from Bear Canyon upward. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls.

Plain Titmouse — Rare permanent resident of junipers and pinyons from the northern slopes of the Chiricahua Mountains northward. Casual in the Catalina Mountains. Has been found along the Paradise Road and in the Chiricahua National Monument. More common on the lower slopes of the Pinaleno Mountains.

Bridled Titmouse — Common permanent resident of the oak woodlands in all mountain ranges. Less common and localized in the riparian woodlands at lower elevations. Lower and widespread in winter. Easy to find in Madera Canyon, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, all canyons in the Huachuclas, and in Cave Creek, Pinery, and other canyons in the Chiricahuas. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls. You should have little trouble finding this handsome bird.

Verdin — Common permanent resident of mesquite thickets and thorny brushlands at lower elevations. Easy to find in the desert at Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Monument, Sabino Canyon, Florida Canyon, and less commonly along Sonoita Creek and the San Pedro River.

Bushtit — Common permanent resident of brushlands and oak woodlands on the mountain slopes. Occurs at higher elevations than the Verdin. Since this bird travels about in wandering flocks, it is not always easy to find, but once a flock is found, the bird is easy to observe. Look for it in Molino Basin, Madera Canyon, about Peña Blanca Lake, Sonoita Creek, all canyons in the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains, and in Guadalupe Canyon. The black-eared form has been found in the Peloncillo Mountains and Guadalupe Canyon.

Pygmy Nuthatch — Common permanent resident of the Ponderosa Pines. Prefers mature trees. Easy to find on Mount Lemmon and in Rustler Park. If you like to hike, it can be found at higher elevations in the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains. Usually, first located by its twittering call.

Brown Creeper — Fairly common permanent resident of the mountains, usually in the coniferous forests. Lower in winter. Can be found on Mount Lemmon, at Rustler Park, and near the tops of the higher mountains, occasionally lower.

Dipper — Rare, reported in winter from Sabino Canyon about a mile above the end of the road. More common in northern Arizona.

Brown-throated Wren — Uncommon summer resident of the oak woodland between 7000 and 7500 feet in the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains. While some consider this wren to be conspecific with the House Wren, there are differences. The eye-stripe is more distinct, and the song is different. The eggs are smaller, with fewer and redder spots. It nests at a lower elevation than the House Wren. It has been reported from most of the "Mexican Mountains." Some specific locations are in Madera Canyon about a mile above the Roundup Campground, in upper Miller Canyon, and near the Pinery Canyon Campground.

Bewick's Wren — Common permanent resident of the brushlands, oaks, juniper, pinyons, and riparian woodlands on the mountain slopes. Lower and widespread in winter, when it reaches the desert. Responds well to squeaking and owl calls. Easy to find in Madera Canyon, about Peña Blanca Lake and Sycamore Canyon on the Ruby Road, Molino Basin, all canyons in the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains, along the Geronimo Trail, and Guadalupe Canyon. This wren is one of the most persistent singers of all the birds in the area, and each individual seems to have a slightly different song. You will probably chase this bird down many times before you learn all of its songs.

Cactus Wren — Common permanent resident of the cactus and thorny brushlands at lower elevations. Easy to find in such areas as Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Park, Sabino Canyon, the cactus patches above Continental, and less commonly in the patches of Chihuahuan Desert near Tombstone, Douglas, and along the road to Guadalupe Canyon.

Canyon Wren — Common permanent resident of rocky canyons and cliffs at lower elevations; occasionally ranges as high as the Ponderosa Pines. Easy to find in Sabino Canyon, Sycamore Canyon on the Ruby Road, Cave Creek Canyon, and Chiricahua National Monument.

Rock Wren — Common permanent resident of open rocky areas in the mountains and high plains. Uncommon at the lowest elevations, except in winter. Fairly easy to find in such areas as the Molino Basin, along the Ruby Road, Peña Blanca Lake, between Tombstone and Bisbee, and along the road into Guadalupe Canyon.

Bendire's Thrasher — Uncommon spring (January to mid-August) resident at lower elevations in open areas that have scattered bushes. A few at other seasons. Most common in the desert between Tucson and Phoenix, lower San Pedro Valley, near the San Xavier Mission, along Silverbell Road between Ina and Cortaro. Hard to find and identify. Easiest, when singing in January and February.

Curve-billed Thrasher — Very common permanent resident of cactus patches, thorny brush, and cities at lower elevations. This thrasher is not shy like other members of its clan. It is often seen running around on the open ground or perched in the top of bush or cactus from where it gives a sharp, human-like whistle, as if to attract your attention. Easy to find in Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Monument, along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, in the patches of Chihuahuan Desert near Tombstone and Douglas, Sonoita Creek, and Guadalupe Canyon.

LeConte's Thrasher — Rare and localized resident of the arid, open creosote brushlands on the desert between Tucson and Phoenix and perhaps on the Papago Indian Reservation west of Tucson. This very shy bird is extremely hard to find in this area. Easiest to find when singing in January and February, and in the western part of the state. Responds well to recordings of its call, particularly in January and February.

Crissal Thrasher — Fairly common but hard-to-find permanent resident of dense thickets along water-courses at lower elevations. This bird is more often chanced upon than found deliberately. Look for it along the Santa Cruz River, as along Santa Gertrudis Lane; Florida Canyon; and along the San Pedro River, as at Hereford. Responds well to taped calls.

Sage Thrasher — Uncommon winter visitor in sparse vegetation at lower elevations. Sometimes common in migration. Most often found in the desert areas near Tucson and westward, but also in the San Pedro and Sulphur Springs Valleys, and on the plains east of the Chiricahua Mountains.

Rufous-backed Robin — Rare winter straggler from Mexico. Recent sightings are from Tucson, Nogales, and Patagonia. One summer record from Madera Canyon. Your best bet is to ask the local birders about recent sightings. This bird usually mingles with flocks of American Robins, so the way to find one is to carefully check all of the flocking robins in the Santa Cruz Valley.

Eastern Bluebird — Uncommon summer resident in the pines and pine-oak woodlands of the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains. Some winter in the canyons and sometimes lower. Most often found nesting in woodpecker holes in Ponderosa Pines, as in Rustler Park, at the top of the Reef Road in the Huachucas, and along the Mount Wrightson Trail in the Santa Ritas.

Western Bluebird — Uncommon summer resident of the Ponderosa Pines in the higher mountains. Lower and more common in winter, when it is found in the oaks, cottonwoods, and pecan groves. In summer can be found in Rustler Park, at the top of the Reef Road, and along the Mount Wrightson Trail. In winter can be found in the lower parts of the mountain canyons, in the oaks of the San Rafael Valley west of the Huachuca Mountains, along the Ruby Road near Peña Blanca Lake, in Molino Basin, and sometimes in cemeteries and other wooded areas in the cities.

Mountain Bluebird — Irregular winter visitor in open areas at lower elevations. Sometimes common. Found in sparsely-grown deserts, pastures, and particularly in plowed fields and leafless nut groves, as along the Santa Cruz River near Continental and in the San Simon Valley north of Portal.

Townsend's Solitaire — Fairly common migrant in wooded areas at middle and lower elevations. Some winter. Usually found in berry-producing bushes, particularly in junipers.

Black-capped Gnatcatcher — One nesting record along Sonoita Creek near the roadside rest area, and one sight record in May from below Lake Patagonia. This Mexican species was first recorded in the United States in 1971. It closely resembles the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, but the underside of the tail is white, as on the Blue-gray. There are no winter records, but it might be separated at that season from the numerous Blue-grays by the fact that the gray on top of the head is sharply separated from the white below by a line that runs from the bill, through the eye, and beyond. The cheek patch is quite white.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher — Uncommon permanent resident of the desert brushlands. Most common in the Sonoran Desert near Tucson, but also found locally in the Chihuahuan Desert, as near Tombstone and Douglas. Easiest to find in Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Monument, Sabino Canyon, and the cactus patch east of Continental.

Phainopepla — Common permanent resident of the brushlands of the deserts and lower mountain slopes. Less common in the eastern sector in winter. Easy to find in the desert around Tucson, lower part of Madera Canyon, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, along the San Pedro River, and in Guadalupe Canyon.

Hutton's Vireo — Fairly common permanent resident of live-oak woodlands. Prefers areas where the oaks are dense, as along water-courses and canyons. Look for it in Madera Canyon, all canyons of the Huachucas, and Pinery and Cave Creek Canyons in the Chiricahuas. Easier to find than to identify. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls.

Bell's Vireo — Common summer resident in dense brush along water-courses at lower elevations, particularly in areas of mesquite. Look for it along the Santa Cruz River, as at Continental and Tumacacori; Sonoita Creek Sanctuary; along the San Pedro River, as at Charleston and Hereford; Guadalupe Canyon; and the San Simon Marsh.

This bird is so shy and nondescript that it is often passed by unless its distinctive call is learned. It consists of two parts of three notes each — cheedle, cheedle, chee; cheedle, cheedle, cher. The first phrase ends with a rising inflection, as if the bird were asking a question. The second phrase, which is given after a short pause, ends with a downward turn, as if in answer to the first part.

Gray Vireo — Uncommon and localized summer resident of arid, brushy hill-sides, particularly in areas of junipers. Sometimes found in winter. In Arizona, the breeding range is mostly north of the "Mexican Mountains", where it occurs

mainly as a migrant. There are summer records from the Catalina and Pinaleno Mountains, and the northern edge of the Chiricahuas.

Even when present, this nondescript bird, which can easily be mistaken for a Bell's or Hutton's Vireo, is hard to find and hard to identify. In favorable habitat, the number of individuals is still not great because the bird has a large nesting territory (about 1000 yards across) and ranges over it freely. When feeding, it stays near the base of a bush for a few minutes then flies a hundred yards or so to the base of another bush, and after a few minutes here, it flies another hundred yards. You must follow quickly from one bush to the next if you hope to see the bird. However, this bird responds well to tape-recordings of its call, a habit that makes it much easier to see.

Migrant Warblers — Because of the mild weather in Arizona, concentrations of migrants are rare. You may find them almost anywhere from the cactus patches and mesquite thickets on the deserts to the wooded canyons of the mountains. A few of the spots that are often visited by the local birders during the first part of the spring migration in late March and April are Midvale Farms, Santa Gertrudis Road at Tumacacori, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Hereford and Charleston on the San Pedro River, Guadalupe Canyon, the San Simon Marsh, and the Bryce-Thompson Arboretum at Superior. By May the canyons have warmed, and the migrants are as likely to be found in the mountains as on the plains. During the fall migration from late July through October, most migrants move through the mountains, but many occur at lower elevations.

Some of the warblers that are found here only as migrants are Nashville, Townsend's, Hermit, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's. There are also a few records for such rare birds as Black-and-white, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Hooded, and American Redstart.

Other landbirds that are found here only as migrants are Vaux's Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree and Bank Swallows, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (rare), and Eastern Kingbird (rare).

Virginia's Warbler — Uncommon summer resident on dry hillsides at higher elevations. Occurs lower in late summer and migration. Nests in patches of low deciduous brush, a habitat that is not common in the mountains of Southeastern Arizona. In the central Rocky Mountains, where this bird is common, it prefers the foothills just below the pine belt, but in Arizona it is more common in the brushy areas within the pine belt. Look for it along the road between Onion Saddle and Rustler Park, along the Crest Trail in the Huachucas, and near the start of the Oracle Road on Mount Lemmon.

Lucy's Warbler — Common summer resident in dense patches of mesquite, but hard to see well. Some good locations are: eastern end of Speedway Boulevard, near San Xavier Mission, Drive-in Theater Pond, Hereford, Sonoita Creek, and Guadalupe Canyon. Nests in holes.

Olive Warbler — Fairly common summer resident of the coniferous forests at higher elevations. A few winter in the same habitat. This bird is often hard to see because it feeds in a slow, deliberate fashion among the branches at the top of tree. Can be found on Mount Lemmon, Mount Wrightson, Miller Peak, and in Rustler Park. The Barfoot Lookout Trail, which goes at tree-top level from the campground in Rustler Park to the lookout, is one of the easiest places to find this bird. A tape-recording of its loud, distinctive song (wheeta, wheeta, wheeta) can be helpful.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Fairly common summer resident of coniferous forests at higher elevations. Abundant winter visitor at lower elevations. Easy to find on Mount Lemmon, Mount Wrightson, Miller Peak, and Rustler Park in summer. Hard to miss in winter.

Black-throated Gray Warbler — Common summer resident in brushy areas of oaks, pinyons, and open pines on dry hillsides. Not hard to find in Molino Basin, along the Bog Springs and Mount Wrightson Trails in Madera Canyon, upper Miller and other canyons in the Huachucas, and along the road between the research station and Onion Saddle in the Chiricahuas. This bird likes to feed on the sunny slopes. Often found on the west side of the canyon in the morning, at the bottom of the canyon at midday, and on the east side in the afternoon. Responds well to squeaks and owl calls. Not hard to find.

Grace's Warbler — Fairly common summer resident of the open pine forests and adjacent oak woodlands. Usually found feeding in the top of a pine tree. Sings frequently. Look for it on Mount Lemmon, Mount Wrightson, along the Crest Trail in the Huachucas, and in Rustler Park. Not particularly hard to find.

Fan-tailed Warbler — One record from Baker Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains, in May 1961.

Red-faced Warbler — Uncommon summer resident of the coniferous forests of the higher mountains and adjacent areas of oak and riparian woodlands. Seems to prefer deciduous trees within the coniferous forest; often in cool, shaded areas. Nests on the ground under a small tree or grass clump. Found on Mount Lemmon between Bear Wallow and the Ski Lodge; in Madera Canyon on the Mount Wrightson Trail and along the stream about a mile or more above the Roundup Campground; in upper Miller Canyon and along the Crest Trail in the Huachucas; in Rustler Park along the Barfoot Trail and the first mile or so of the Chiricahua Peak Trail, and particularly in Pinery Canyon. Responds well to owl calls.

Painted Redstart — Common summer resident in dense oak and pine-oak woodlands between 5000 and 8000 feet, particularly along streams. A few winter. Occurs in all of the major canyons of the higher mountains, as in Madera, Ramsey, Miller, Cave Creek, and Pinery Canyons. Not hard to find. In

fact, this little jewel actually seems to come out and twist, turn, flutter, and spread its feathers as if to say, "Look at me! Look at me!". If you give an owl call, you may get mobbed. You will undoubtedly see many of these flashing beauties, but you will never get to the point of saying, "It is just a redstart." Each one is too pretty and animated to pass up.

Eastern Meadowlark — Common permanent resident of the grasslands from the Santa Rita Mountains eastward. Less common westward and in winter. Easy to find near Sonoita, along the east side of the Huachucas, and in the Sulphur Springs and San Simon Valleys.

Western Meadowlark — Common permanent resident of the grasslands and irrigated fields near Tucson and west of the Santa Rita Mountains. Less common eastward. Easy to find between Tucson and Continental in the fields along the Santa Cruz River.

The guide books state that the Eastern can be separated from the Western by the fact that the latter is paler and the yellow of its throat meets the gray of the cheek and is not separated by a white streak as in the Eastern. This seems simple until the two are seen side by side. Oh well, you can always rely on the difference in calls, or can you? It is believed that one species may imitate the other.

Yellow-headed Blackbird — Common winter visitor near water, cattle pens, and fields at lower elevations near Tucson and northward to Phoenix. Occasionally elsewhere. Easy to find in the irrigated fields along the Santa Cruz River near Tucson, the Tucson Sewage Ponds, cattle pens at Continental and north of Tucson, and Picacho Reservoir. Most of the wintering birds in this area are males; apparently the females and immatures winter in Mexico.

Hooded Oriole — Fairly common summer resident in riparian woodlands from the lower mountain slopes to the deserts. Increasingly common in the cities, particularly around hummingbird feeders. A few winter in Tucson. Nests in palm trees in the cities and in walnuts, sycamores, and cottonwoods elsewhere. Can be found in Tucson, Sabino Canyon, along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, and in the lower parts of the mountain canyons, such as Madera, Ramsey, and Cave Creek.

Streaked-backed Oriole — Very rare straggler, mainly in fall and winter. Most records are from the Tucson area, where feeders and observers are numerous. In Mexico it is found in riparian woodlands and cities.

Scott's Oriole — Fairly common summer resident of the oak and pine-oak woodlands, particularly in areas with yuccas or agave. Also found in yuccas or agaves on the grasslands. Usually nests in yucca, but occasionally in small trees. Can be found in Molino Basin, in the agaves along Highway 82 just east of Sonoita, in the yuccas along Highway 92 south of Sierra Vista and along

Highway 181 west of the Chiricahua National Monument, and in the mountain canyons such as Madera, Ramsey, Miller, and Cave Creek. Often seen at hummingbird feeders, as at the Santa Rita Lodge, Ramsey Canyon, and the Southwestern Research Station.

Great-tailed Grackle — Common permanent resident in cities, on farms, and about tree-lined ponds at lower elevations. Fifty years ago this bird was not reported from Arizona. Now it is abundant in the city parks in Tucson and along the Santa Cruz River.

Bronzed Cowbird — Fairly common summer resident of irrigated fields and canyons with sycamores, particularly along the Santa Cruz River and its tributaries. Many winter about cow pens in the Santa Cruz Valley. In summer, easy to find in Madera Canyon and at the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary. In winter, can be found at the cattle pens at Continental and near the Tucson Sewage Ponds.

Western Tanager — Common summer resident in the coniferous forests in the higher mountains. Lower in migration. Can be found on Mount Lemmon, Rustler Park, along the Crest Trail in the Huachucas, and on the Mount Wrightson Trail in the Santa Ritas.

Hepatic Tanager — Common summer resident of the dense oak woodlands and pine forests in most mountain ranges. Sometimes winters in the Santa Cruz River Valley. Can be found in Madera Canyon, nearly all canyons in the Huachucas and Chiricahuas, and on Mount Lemmon.

This bird might be mistaken for a Summer Tanager, but the Hepatic is a darker, brick red and nests at a higher elevation. The easiest way to separate them is by the call note. The Hepatic utters a single note, while the Summer has a three-note call.

Summer Tanager — Common summer resident of riparian woodlands at lower elevations, particularly in areas of cottonwoods. Can be found along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, San Simon Marsh, and particularly at the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.

Red Cardinal — Common permanent resident of thickets, riparian woodlands, and cities at lower elevations. Fairly easy to find in the desert washes on the Papago Indian Reservation, Saguaro National Monument, Tucson, along the San Pedro and Santa Cruz Rivers, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, and Guadalupe Canyon.

Pyrrhuloxia — Fairly common permanent resident in dense brush at lower elevations, particularly in mesquite thickets. More common from the San Pedro Valley westward to about Ajo. Can be found along the Santa Cruz River, as at the Midvale Farms, San Xavier Mission, Continental, and Tumacacori; Sonoita Creek Sanctuary; and along the San Pedro River, as at Hereford.

Yellow Grosbeak — One record near the roadside rest area south of Patagonia. Possibly an escapee. A common caged bird in nearby areas of Mexico. Two records from Cave Creek Canyon in 1974.

Black-headed Grosbeak — Common summer resident of riparian and oak woodlands, and open pines at higher elevations. Easy to find in all of the mountain canyons such as Madera, Miller, Pinery, and Cave Creek.

Blue Grosbeak — Common summer resident of riparian woodlands and the brushy or weedy edges of irrigated fields at lower elevations, particularly in areas of willows and cottonwoods. Can be found in the Santa Cruz and San Pedro River Valleys, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Sulphur Springs Valley, and San Simon Marsh.

Lazuli Bunting — Fairly common spring and fall migrant in riparian thickets, nut groves, and tall weeds. Mostly from the San Pedro Valley westward. Uncommon winter visitor. A few non-breeders in summer. Can be found along the Santa Cruz River, nut groves at Midvale Farms and near Continental, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, and at Hereford.

Varied Bunting — Rare and local summer resident in dense patches of mesquite. Has nested in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains, near the corral on Van Metre Road in Madera Canyon, near the roadside rest area south of Patagonia, and near Ruby beyond Peña Blanca Lake. The most reliable spot is usually Guadalupe Canyon.

This bird is usually hard to find unless you hear the male singing. He normally sings in the morning before the temperature climbs. Try to be in his area before 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

Evening Grosbeak — Uncommon and erratic permanent resident in the higher mountains. Most often found about deciduous trees such as maples and box elders in the coniferous areas. An unpredictable bird, but often found near the Oracle Road on Mount Lemmon and at the spring in Rustler Park.

Cassin's Finch — Irregular but sometimes fairly common winter visitor in the pines and pine-oak woodlands at higher elevations. Occasionally lower. To be expected in all of the higher mountains, but Mount Lemmon is the only one of the higher ranges that is easily accessible in midwinter.

House Finch — Abundant permanent resident in cities, deserts, open brushlands, and riparian woodlands. Mostly at lower elevations. Hard to miss.

Dark-backed Goldfinch — Common permanent resident of riparian thickets and woodlands at lower elevations. Sometimes in the oak woodlands. Can be found in Sabino Canyon, in the willows and cottonwoods along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, nut groves, cities, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, San Simon Marsh, Guadalupe Canyon, and in the lower parts of most of the mountain canyons.

Lawrence's Goldfinch — Uncommon but increasing winter visitor in weedy fields, nut groves, and riparian woodlands at lower elevations. Most common in the Santa Cruz River Valley. Irregular but often found in the nut groves at Midvale Farms and near Continental.

Red Crossbill — Fairly common but irregular permanent resident in coniferous forests of higher mountains. Occasionally found in winter in cemeteries and cities, which have conifers. To be expected in all of the higher mountains, as on Mount Lemmon, Rustler Park, Crest Trail in the Huachucas, the Mount Wrightson Trail in the Santa Ritas, or any areas with ample pine cones.

Green-tailed Towhee — Fairly common winter visitor to weedy fields, tangles, thickets, and dense brush at lower elevations. Can be found in Sabino Canyon; along the Santa Cruz River, as in the nut groves at Continental; Drive-In Theater Ponds at Nogales; Hereford; Guadalupe Canyon; and especially in Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.

Brown Towhee — Common permanent resident of the brushlands along the lower mountain slopes and rocky canyons. This bird may not be colorful, but it is very friendly. Often seen about cabins, picnic areas, and parking areas. Easy to find in Sabino Canyon, Molino Basin, Florida Canyon, Peña Blanca Lake, rest area south of Patagonia, Guadalupe Canyon, and many other areas.

Abert's Towhee — Fairly common but localized permanent resident of the undergrowth in riparian woodlands and mesquite thickets. Due to destruction of its habitat, this bird is not always easy to find. Can be found at Hereford, Santa Gertrudis Lane, Tucson Sewage Ponds, eastern end of Speedway Boulevard, and above the dam in the Lower Bear Canyon section of Sabino Canyon.

Lark Bunting — Common to abundant winter visitor to open deserts, fields, and grasslands. Hard to miss in the Sulphur Springs Valley, deserts near Douglas and Tucson, and in the fields along the Santa Cruz River. Since this bird travels in large flocks in open areas, you should have little trouble finding it.

Baird's Sparrow — Uncommon migrant to the grasslands at higher elevations. A few winter. Most common from the Santa Rita Mountains eastward. Probably more common than the records would indicate. It is easily overlooked among the thousands of sparrows found on the grasslands in migration and winter. Seems to prefer areas where the grass is fairly tall or mixed with a few weeds. Has been found near Sonoita and the San Rafael Valley, along the Ruby Road near Lake Pena Blanca, plains east of the Huachuca Mountains, and in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Five-striped Sparrow — Rare summer resident. First discovered in 1957 in the lower part of Madera Canyon, but not seen there since. Several pairs (at least 3 pairs) have nested for at least 6 years in the brush at the base of the rocky cliffs along Sonoita Creek just opposite the roadside rest area south of Patagonia. Sometimes seen near the rest area. Not known from any other location at present.

The best way to find this bird is to ask for directions from the other birders in the area.

Rufous-winged Sparrow — Fairly common but localized permanent resident of grasslands mixed with open stands of brush or cholla at lower elevations near the Santa Rita Mountains, on the Papago Indian Reservation, and in the Tucson area. Has been found near Oracle Junction, on Wilmot Road about a half-mile north of Interstate 10 in Tucson, near San Xavier Mission, Florida Canyon, Gardner Canyon, and on Santa Gertrudis Lane at Tumacacori. The best spot at present seems to be along Speedway Boulevard in Tucson some 4 to 7 miles east of Wilmot Road.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow — Common permanent resident in grassy areas of low, open brushlands on dry, rocky hillsides along the lower slopes of the mountains. Fairly easy to find in such areas as Sabino Canyon, Florida Canyon, around Peña Blanca Lake, near the rest area south of Patagonia, Coronado National Monument, Guadalupe Canyon, and Chiricahua National Monument.

Botteri's Sparrow — Uncommon and localized summer resident of grasslands with scattered bushes around the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains. Difficult to find and to identify except in the very short singing period at the start of the rainy season in early July. Has been found along Road 406 just above Florida Canyon in the lower part of Madera Canyon; Gardner Canyon; Nogales Airport; Canelo; lower parts of Ramsey, Carr, and Miller Canyons in the Huachucas; and along Highway 181 west of the Chiricahua National Monument.

Cassin's Sparrow — Fairly common summer resident in July and August in the grasslands with scattered bushes. A few at other seasons. Occurs in the same areas as the Botteri's Sparrow. Has been found above Florida Canyon, along the Old Sonoita Highway Loop in Gardner Canyon, Nogales Airport, near Canelo, along the east base of the Huachuca Mountains, along Highway 181 west of the Chiricahua Mountains, and near Portal.

Black-throated Sparrow — Common permanent resident in open brush or cactus in arid areas at lower elevations. Easy to find in the Saguaro National Monument, just east of Continental, Florida Canyon, along the San Pedro River, at Hereford and Charleston, near Tombstone and Bisbee, and along the road into Guadalupe Canyon.

Dark-eyed Junco — Common winter visitor to cities, brushlands, and riparian and oak woodlands at lower and middle elevations. Can be found in the lower parts of all of the mountain canyons, along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, along Ruby Road, and many other areas.

Gray-headed Junco — Common winter visitor in the canyons, riparian and oak woodlands, and brushlands of the mountains. Sometimes lower or higher. Easy to find in the mountain canyons such as Madera, Ramsey, Miller, Pinery, and Cave Creek. Also in Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, along Ruby Road, and Mount Lemmon.

Yellow-eyed Junco — Common permanent resident of the coniferous forests in the higher mountains. Lower in winter. Easy to find in summer at Rustler Park, Mount Lemmon, and along the trails at higher elevations in the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains. In winter, found in the lower parts of all of the mountain canyons.

Clay-colored Sparrow — Uncommon and irregular migrant in the weedy fields and brushy grasslands from the Santa Rita Mountains eastward. Occasionally westward and in winter. The secret to finding this bird is to just keep checking sparrows. If you look at enough of the thousands of sparrows that migrate through the San Rafael, San Pedro, and Sulphur Springs Valleys, you should find this one.

Brewer's Sparrow — Common to abundant winter visitor in weedy fields, open brushlands, and brushy grasslands at lower elevations. Fairly easy to find in the deserts around Tucson, Papago Indian Reservation, and in the Santa Cruz, San Pedro, and Sulphur Springs Valleys.

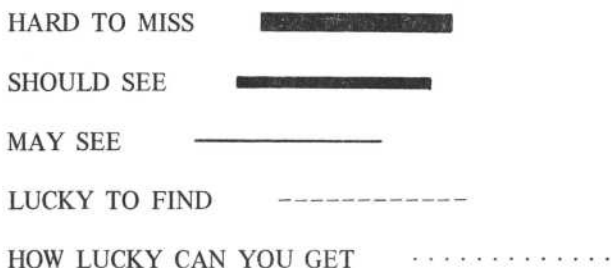
Black-chinned Sparrow — Uncommon permanent resident in the brushy hillsides and canyons of the Catalina Mountains and the northern end of the Chiricahua Mountains. Occasionally elsewhere, particularly in winter. Easiest to find in Sabino Canyon and Molino Basin. Most common in winter.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — Common winter visitor in the grasslands of the Sulphur Springs Valley and usually in the San Rafael and San Simon Valleys and near Sonoita. Sometimes abundant in migration. Other longspurs are occasionally found in the same flocks, particularly McCown's.

BIRDS OF SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

All birds regularly occurring in Southeastern Arizona in an *average* year are listed in the following charts, which are intended to give you a conservative idea of your chances for finding particular species. No attempt is made to reflect yearly fluctuations, late or early dates, or unusual occurrences. You will may find birds at other seasons or in greater abundance than is indicated. Birds that are seldom seen, accidental, possible escapees, or of dubious authenticity are listed separately at the end.

The bar graphs are designed to show the probability of your seeing the bird rather than the bird's abundance. Thus a large bird such as the Red-tailed Hawk may be shown as "hard to miss", while a shy, hard-to-identify, or small bird such as the Botteri's Sparrow may occur in greater numbers, but be shown as "lucky to find."



Many local people and others who bird the area frequently were consulted in determining the status of each bird. Since these birders are familiar with the birds, their songs, habits, and habitats, they are good at finding the more elusive species. On your first trip to the area, you may think that some species are harder to find than is indicated.

If you are in the RIGHT HABITAT and the RIGHT AREA at the PROPER SEASON, you should be able to find the "hard to miss" birds on nearly every field trip; the "should see" on 3 out of 4 trips; the "may see" on 1 out of 4 trips, and the "lucky to find" on 1 out of every 10 trips or less. The "how lucky can you get" species occur at infrequent intervals or take an expert to identify.

Although "forget it" is the answer that you will probably receive when inquiring about your chances of seeing a very rare species, do not stop looking. Adding one of these to your list is what puts the topping on a trip. If you are positive of your identification, take careful notes and report your find to the regional editor of **American Birds**: Janet Witzeman, 4619 East Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
EARED GREBE						-	-	-	-			
PIED-BILLED GREBE												
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN				-	-	-				-	-	
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	-	-	-	-	-						-	-
NEOTROPICAL CORMORANT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
GREAT BLUE HERON												
GREEN HERON												
CATTLE EGRET												
GREAT EGRET	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
SNOWY EGRET	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
WHITE-FACED IBIS				.	-	-	.		-	.		
CANADA GOOSE												
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	.	.	.	.	.	.				-	-	.
SNOW GOOSE	.	.	.	-						-	-	.
BLACK-BELLIED TREE DUCK	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
MALLARD												
MEXICAN DUCK												
GADWALL												
COMMON PINTAIL												
GREEN-WINGED TEAL												
BLUE-WINGED TEAL												
CINNAMON TEAL												
AMERICAN WIGEON												
NORTHERN SHOVELER												
REDHEAD												
RING-NECKED DUCK												
CANVASBACK												
LESSER SCAUP												
BUFFLEHEAD												
RUDDY DUCK												

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
COMMON MERGANSER	—	—	—									—
TURKEY VULTURE				—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
BLACK VULTURE												
NORTHERN GOSHAWK												
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK				—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
COOPER'S HAWK												
RED-TAILED HAWK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SWAINSON'S HAWK				—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
ZONE-TAILED HAWK	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	—	—	—							—	—	—
FERRUGINOUS HAWK	—	—	—	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
GRAY HAWK				—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
BAY-WINGED HAWK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
COMMON BLACK HAWK			·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·		
GOLDEN EAGLE												
BALD EAGLE	·	·	·	·	·						·	·
NORTHERN HARRIER	—	—	—	—							—	—
CRESTED CARACARA	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
PRAIRIE FALCON												
PEREGRINE FALCON			·	·	·				·	·	·	·
MERLIN	—	—	—	—						—	—	—
AMERICAN KESTREL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SCALED QUAIL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GAMBEL'S QUAIL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MONTEZUMA QUAIL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WILD TURKEY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VIRGINIA RAIL	—	—	—	—	—				·	—	—	—
SORA	—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—
COMMON GALLINULE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
AMERICAN COOT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER			—	—	—					—	—	—

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
SNOWY PLOVER				.	.	.	.	.	.	.		
KILLDEER												
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER					--			--	--	--		
COMMON SNIFE				--	--							
LONG-BILLED CURLEW				--	--			--	--	--		
SPOTTED SANDPIPER						--	--					
SOLITARY SANDPIPER				--	--			--	--	--		
WILLET				--	--			--	--	--		
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	.	.	.	--	--			--	--	--	.	.
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	.	.	.	.	.			--	--	--	.	.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER				--	--			--	--	--		
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER				--	--			--	--	--		
LEAST SANDPIPER					--							
DUNLIN	.	.	.	.	--					--	.	.
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER							.	.	.			
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	.	.	.	--	--			--	--	--	.	.
STILT SANDPIPER					--			--	--	--		
WESTERN SANDPIPER	.	.	.	--	--			--	--	--	.	.
MARbled GODWIT				--	--			--	--	--		
SANDERLING					--			--	--	--		
AMERICAN AVOCET				--	--	.	.	--	--	--		
BLACK-NECKED STILT				--	--	.	.	--	--	--		
RED PHALAROPE										.	.	.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE				--	--			--	--	--		
NORTHERN PHALAROPE					--			--	--	--		
CALIFORNIA GULL					--			.	.	.		
RING-BILLED GULL			.	--	--	.		--	--	--		
FRANKLIN'S GULL				--	--			--	--	--		
BONAPARTE'S GULL				--	--					--	--	--
FORSTER'S TERN				--	--				--	--		
BLACK TERN			.	--	--	.	.	--	--	--		

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
BAND-TAILED PIGEON												
WHITE-WINGED DOVE												
MOURNING DOVE												
GROUND DOVE												
INCA DOVE												
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO												
GREATER ROADRUNNER												
BARN OWL												
COMMON SCREECH-OWL												
WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL												
FLAMMULATED SCREECH-OWL												
GREAT HORNED OWL												
NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL												
FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL												
ELF OWL												
BURROWING OWL												
SPOTTED OWL												
LONG-EARED OWL												
SHORT-EARED OWL												
WHIP-POOR-WILL												
BUFF-COLLARED NIGHTJAR												
POORWILL												
COMMON NIGHTHAWK												
LESSER NIGHTHAWK												
VAUX'S SWIFT												
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT												
LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD												
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD												
COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD												
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD												
BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD												

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD			-	-			-	-	-			
ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD							-	-				
CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD				-			-	-				
MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD					.	.	-	-	-			
WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD					.	.	-	-	.			
BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELEGANT TROGON	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-	.	.	.	.
BELTED KINGFISHER												
GREEN KINGFISHER	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
COMMON FLICKER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GILA WOODPECKER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACORN WOODPECKER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEWIS' WOODPECKER	-	-	-	-	-					-	-	-
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	-	-	-	-	-				-	-	-	-
WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER	-	-	-	-	-				-	-	-	-
HAIRY WOODPECKER												
LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BROWN-BACKED WOODPECKER												
ROSE-THROATED BECARD				-	-	-	-	-	-			
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
WESTERN KINGBIRD			-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
TROPICAL KINGBIRD				-	-	-	-	-	-			
THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD				-	-	-	-	-	-			
SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER				-	-	-	-	-	-			
BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER				-	-	-	-	-	-			
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER				-	-	-	-	-	-			
BLACK PHOEBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SAY'S PHOEBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER				-	-	-	-	-				
GRAY FLYCATCHER												
DUSKY FLYCATCHER	.	.	.	.	.	-				-	-	.
HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER	.	.	.	.	-	-				-	-	.
WESTERN FLYCATCHER												
WILLOW FLYCATCHER												
GREATER PEWEE												
WESTERN PEWEE												
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER												
VERMILION FLYCATCHER												
NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
HORNED LARK												
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW												
TREE SWALLOW												
BANK SWALLOW												
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW												
BARN SWALLOW												
CLIFF SWALLOW												
PURPLE MARTIN												
STELLER'S JAY												
SCRUB JAY												
GRAY-BREASTED JAY												
NORTHERN RAVEN												
WHITE-NECKED RAVEN												
PINYON JAY	.	.	.	.	.	.				.	-	.
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER	.	.	.	.	.	.	.			-	-	.
GRAY-SIDED CHICKADEE												
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE												
PLAIN TITMOUSE												
BRIDLED TITMOUSE												
VERDIN												

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	A	E	A	P	A	U	U	U	E	C	O	E
	N	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C
BUSHTIT												
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH												
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH												
PYGMY NUTHATCH												
BROWN CREEPER												
HOUSE WREN												
BROWN-THROATED WREN												
WINTER WREN	- - - -										- - - -	
BEWICK'S WREN												
CACTUS WREN												
MARSH WREN												
CANYON WREN												
ROCK WREN												
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD												
BROWN THRASHER	.	.	.	.	.	.			.	.	.	.
BENDIRE'S THRASHER	- - - -										- - - -	
CURVE-BILLED THRASHER												
CRISSAL THRASHER												
SAGE THRASHER												
AMERICAN ROBIN												
RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.				.	.
HERMIT THRUSH												
SWAINSON'S THRUSH												
EASTERN BLUEBIRD												
WESTERN BLUEBIRD												
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD												
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	- - - -										- - - -	
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER												
BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER												
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	- - - -										- - - -	
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET												

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
WATER PIPIT												
CEDAR WAXWING												
PHAINOPEPLA												
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE												
EUROPEAN STARLING												
HUTTON'S VIREO												
BELL'S VIREO												
GRAY VIREO												
SOLITARY VIREO												
WARBLING VIREO												
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER												
NASHVILLE WARBLER												
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER												
LUCY'S WARBLER												
OLIVE WARBLER												
YELLOW WARBLER												
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER												
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER												
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER												
HERMIT WARBLER												
GRACE'S WARBLER												
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH												
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER												
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT												
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT												
RED-FACED WARBLER												
WILSON'S WARBLER												
AMERICAN REDSTART												
PAINTED REDSTART												
HOUSE SPARROW												
EASTERN MEADOWLARK												

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
WESTERN MEADOWLARK												
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD												
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD												
HOODED ORIOLE												
SCOTT'S ORIOLE												
NORTHERN ORIOLE												
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD												
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE												
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD												
BRONZED COWBIRD												
WESTERN Tanager												
HEPATIC Tanager												
SUMMER Tanager												
RED CARDINAL												
PYRRHULOXIA												
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBIRD												
BLACK-HEADED GROSBIRD												
BLUE GROSBIRD												
INDIGO BUNTING												
LAZULI BUNTING												
VARIED BUNTING												
EVENING GROSBIRD												
PURPLE FINCH												
CASSIN'S FINCH												
HOUSE FINCH												
PINE SISKIN												
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH												
DARK-BACKED GOLDFINCH												
LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH												
RED CROSSBILL												
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE												

	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE												
BROWN TOWHEE												
ABERT'S TOWHEE												
LARK BUNTING												
SAVANNAH SPARROW												
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW												
BAIRD'S SPARROW												
VESPER SPARROW												
LARK SPARROW												
RUFIOUS-WINGED SPARROW												
RUFIOUS-CROWDED SPARROW												
BOTTERI'S SPARROW												
CASSIN'S SPARROW												
FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW												
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW												
SAGE SPARROW												
DARK-EYED JUNCO												
GRAY-HEADED JUNCO												
YELLOW-EYED JUNCO												
CHIPPING SPARROW												
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW												
BREWER'S SPARROW												
BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW												
WHITE-CROWDED SPARROW												
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW												
FOX SPARROW												
LINCOLN'S SPARROW												
SWAMP SPARROW												
SONG SPARROW												
MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR												
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR												

SELDOM SEEN BUT POSSIBLE

Common Loon	*Hudsonian Godwit	*Philadelphia Vireo
*Arctic Loon	Herring Gull	Black-and-white Warb.
Horned Grebe	*Laughing Gull	*Prothonotary Warbler
*Least Grebe	*Heermann's Gull	*Worm-eating Warbler
Western Grebe	*Sabine's Gull	*Golden-winged Warbler
*Brown Pelican	*Arctic Tern	*Blue-winged Warbler
*Little Blue Heron	Common Tern	Tennessee Warbler
*Louisiana Heron	*Little Tern	Northern Parula
*Reddish Egret	Gull-billed Tern	Magnolia Warbler
Least Bittern	*Black-bl. Cuckoo	Cape May Warbler
American Bittern	*Groove-billed Ani	*Black-th. Blue Warb.
Wood Stork	Saw-whet Owl	Black-th. Green Warb.
Roseate Spoonbill	Black Swift	*Cerulean Warbler
Whistling Swan	Chimney Swift	*Blackburnian Warbler
Ross' Goose	*Berylline Hummingbird	*Yellow-th. Warbler
Fulvous Tree Duck	*Plain-cp. Starthroat	*Chestnut-sided Warb.
Wood Duck	Bumblebee Hummingbird	*Bay-breasted Warbler
Greater Scaup	*Red-hd. Woodpecker	*Blackpoll Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Downy Woodpecker	*Prairie Warbler
*Oldsquaw	Eastern Phoebe	*Palm Warbler
*White-wg. Scoter	Scissor-tl. Flycatcher	*Ovenbird
*Surf Scoter	Eastern Kingbird	*La. Waterthrush
Hooded Merganser	Great Cr. Flycatcher	*Kentucky Warbler
Red-br. Merganser	Eastern Pewee	*Fan-tailed Warbler
Mississippi Kite	*Least Flycatcher	*Hooded Warbler
*White-tailed Hawk	*Common Crow	*Slate-th. Redstart
*Broad-winged Hawk	N. American Dipper	Bobolink
Osprey	Gray Catbird	Orchard Oriole
Aplomado Falcon	Le Conte's Thrasher	Streak-bk. Oriole
*Elegant Quail	Varied Thrush	*Rusty Blackbird
Sandhill Crane	*Wood Thrush	*Scarlet Tanager
*Black Rail	*Gray-ck. Thrush	*Yellow Grosbeak
Mountain Plover	Veery	Painted Bunting
Golden Plover	*Black-cp. Gnatcatcher	Dickcissel
Ruddy Turnstone	*Sprague's Pipit	Pine Grosbeak
Whimbrel	Bohemian Waxwing	Harris' Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper	*Yellow-th. Vireo	Golden-cr. Sparrow
Red Knot	Red-eyed Vireo	Lapland Longspur
Semiplm. Sandpiper	*Yellow-green Vireo	Smith's Longspur

*fewer than 10 records.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

Tiger Salamander — Oak woodlands. The only salamander in Arizona.

Barking Frog — Rare; rocky hillsides in canyons, Santa Rita and Pajarito Mountains. Found after summer rains.

Couch's Spadefoot — Abundant after first summer rains; deserts and grasslands.

Western Spadefoot — Abundant after summer rains; many habitats from the desert to the pines.

Plains Spadefoot — Abundant after summer rains; Upper Sonoran grasslands.

Colorado River Toad — Along tributaries of the Rio Yaqui (San Bernardino Ranch and Guadalupe Canyon) and the Rio de la Concepcion (Sycamore Canyon).

Woodhouse's Toad — Permanent streams and irrigation ditches, mostly Lower Sonoran.

Southwestern Toad — Uncommon, streams in rocky canyons and woodlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Red-spotted Toad — Localized; pools and seeps in rocky canyons. Upper Sonoran.

Green Plains Toad — Irrigation ditches and rain pools of the deserts and grasslands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Green Toad — Abundant after summer rains; grasslands, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties.

Canyon Treefrog — Common; rocky streams from the desert to the pines.

Arizona Treefrog — Rare; forests, Huachuca Mountains.

Tarahumara Frog — Found in the United States only along the tributaries of the Rio de la Concepcion (Sycamore, Peña Blanca, and Alamo Canyons).

Leopard Frog — Localized; permanent water, from the desert to the pines.

Bullfrog — Introduced; permanent water.

Great Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad — Rare; found after summer rains in pools and streams, Pajarito and Patagonia Mountains.

Yellow Mud Turtle — Streams and ponds in the grasslands, Cochise and Pima Counties.

Sonoran Mud Turtle — Streams of the Gila River drainage, chiefly in the woodlands.

Western Box Turtle — Grasslands, mainly Cochise County.

Desert Tortoise — Rare; rocky foothills in the deserts, from near Benson westward.

Spiny Softshell — Introduced, Gila River drainage.

Banded Gecko — Mainly in rocky areas, Lower Sonoran.

Lesser Earless Lizard — Grasslands and areas of low brush, Upper Sonoran.

Greater Earless Lizard — Washes and stream-beds in areas of low brush and open oak woodlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Zebra-tailed Lizard — Sandy plains, deserts, Lower Sonoran.

Collared Lizard — Rocky areas of deserts and foothills.

Leopard Lizard — Brushy grasslands and deserts, Lower Sonoran.

Bunch Grass Lizard — Grassy slopes in coniferous forests, Mexican Mountains.

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard — Cliffs and talus slopes in oak and coniferous forests of Mexican Mountains. Above 5,000 feet.

Desert Spiny Lizard — Desert brushlands, mesquite thickets, cottonwood groves, and rocky areas. Lower Sonoran. Usually on the ground.

Clark's Spiny Lizard — Mainly in wooded areas along streams on the slopes of the Mexican Mountains. Upper Sonoran. Usually found in trees.

Eastern Fence Lizard — Many habitats, Upper Sonoran and Transition.

Side-blotched Lizard — Many habitats, deserts and grasslands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Tree Lizard — Trees and large rocks, from the deserts to the pines.

Texas Horned Lizard — Plains with scrubby vegetations, Chihuahuan Desert in Cochise County.

Short-horned Lizard — Many habitats, from the grasslands to the boreal forests. Not a desert species.

Round-tailed Horned Lizard — Plains with scrubby vegetation, Chihuahuan Desert in Cochise County.

Regal Horned Lizard — Rocky areas of desert foothills, Sonoran Desert in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Great Plains Skink — Under rocks and litter along water-courses, from the deserts to the mountains.

Mountain Skink — Under rocks and litter in wooded areas of Mexican Mountains.

Giant Spotted Whiptail — Dense brush along water courses, from the deserts and grasslands into the oak woodlands up to 4500 feet.

Little Striped Whiptail — Grasslands; known only from vicinity of Willcox Playa in Cochise County.

Desert Grassland Whiptail — Plains and slopes of deserts and mesquite grasslands. Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Chihuahuan Whiptail — Canyon bottoms in oak and oak-pine woodlands and in riparian woodlands and rocky areas of grasslands and deserts. Mostly Upper Sonoran.

Western Whiptail — Many habitats, but usually fairly open areas. From the deserts to the lower oak woodlands up to 4500 feet.

Checkered Whiptail — From creosote brush to pinyon pine. Known only from Peloncillo Mountains.

Arizona Alligator Lizard — Under rocks and litter, from pine-oak woodlands down to riparian woodlands in the deserts, mostly Upper Sonoran.

Gila Monster — Rare; rocky areas from the deserts to lower edge of oak woodlands.

Western Blind Snake — Deserts and arid grasslands, Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts, Lower Sonoran.

Texas Blind Snake — Deserts and grasslands, particularly in moist areas. Chihuahuan Deserts and surrounding grasslands.

Ring-necked Snake — Moist areas in oak and riparian woodlands, mostly Upper Sonoran.

Western Hog-nosed Snake — Mainly grasslands. Upper Sonoran.

Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake — Sandy soils, west of Tucson; nocturnal.

Saddled Leaf-nosed Snake — Rocky soils, west of Tucson.

Coachwhip — Many habitats, deserts and grasslands. Often very pink (Pink snakes! Time to give up drinking?).

Sonoran Whipsnake — From the brushy deserts to the oak-pine woodlands.

Western Patch-nosed Snake — Open brushlands of deserts. Lower Sonoran.

Mountain Patch-nosed Snake — Open oak and pine-oak woodlands, Upper Sonoran.

Green Rat Snake — Rare; canyons of the Mexican Mountains.

Glossy Snake — Many habitats, deserts and grasslands; nocturnal.

Gopher Snake — Many habitats, from the deserts to the mountains. The most commonly seen snake.

Common Kingsnake — Many habitats in the deserts and grasslands. A black form with few or no light dorsal marking may be found south of Tucson.

Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake — Brushlands, woodlands, and coniferous forests of the mountains.

Long-nosed Snake — Deserts and grasslands; nocturnal.

Black-necked Garter Snake — Streams from the desert to the pines.

Mexican Garter Snake — Streams, mainly on the grasslands.

Checkered Garter Snake — Usually along streams and ponds in the deserts and grasslands.

Western Ground Snake — Sandy plains and rocky hillsides of the deserts and grasslands.

Banded Sand Snake — Sandy soils, Sonoran Deserts from lower San Pedro Valley westward.

Western Hook-nosed Snake — Known only from the deserts and grasslands in Cochise County.

Desert Hook-nosed Snake — Known only from the grasslands of Santa Cruz County.

Western Black-headed Snake — Under rocks and litter from the desert canyons to the oak woodlands.

Plains Black-headed Snake — Under rocks and litter in the grasslands. Usually in moist areas.

Huachuca Black-headed Snake — Rare; under rocks and litter in the grasslands and oak woodlands of the Huachuca and Patagonia Mountains.

Vine Snake — Brush and trees along canyon bottoms. Known only from the tributaries of the Rio de la Concepcion west of Nogales. One specimen reported from Ramsey Canyon.

Sonoran Lyre Snake — Rocky canyons and hillsides from the deserts to the pines.

Night Snake — Many habitats, from the desert to the oak woodlands.

Arizona Coral Snake — Many habitats, from the deserts to the lower oak woodlands.

Massasauga — Rare; grasslands of Cochise County.

Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake — Many habitats, from the deserts and grasslands to the lower oak woodlands.

Rock Rattlesnake — Rocky areas of the oak and pine-oak woodlands of the Mexican Mountains.

Black-tailed Rattlesnake — Rocky areas from the deserts to the pines.

Tiger Rattlesnake — Rocky areas, Sonoran Desert west of Tucson.

Western Rattlesnake — Many habitats, from the desert to the pines. Found only in the Rincon and Catalina Mountains and northward.

Mojave Rattlesnake — Non-rocky plains of the open deserts and grasslands; occasionally in the mountains.

Twin-spotted Rattlesnake — Rocky areas in the coniferous forests of the Mexican Mountains.

Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake — Rare; rocky areas in moist wooded canyons in the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains.

MAMMALS OF SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

- Virginia Opossum** — Introduced; may occur in farming areas.
- Vagrant Shrew** — Meadows and grassy areas in the higher mountains.
- Desert Shrew** — Brush and riparian woodlands at lower elevations.
- Leaf-chinned Bat** — Known only from mines in Santa Cruz County.
- Leaf-nosed Bat** — Mines and caves at lower elevations.
- Hog-nosed Bat** — Near mine entrances.
- Long-nosed Bat** — Moist caves and mines.
- Yuma Myotis** — Mines, caves, tree hollows.
- Cave Myotis** — Caves at lower elevations.
- Long-eared Myotis** — Mines and caves at higher elevations.
- Keen's Myotis** — Caves and hollows at higher elevations.
- Fringed Myotis** — Caves and buildings at higher elevations.
- Long-legged Myotis** — Open forests at higher elevations.
- California Myotis** — Caves and hollows, all elevations.
- Small-footed Myotis** — Mines, caves, hollows, all elevations.
- Western Pipistrelle** — Crevices and buildings, all elevations.
- Big Brown Bat** — Buildings and caves, all elevations.
- Silver-haired Bat** — Solitary; forested areas at higher elevations.
- Hoary Bat** — Solitary; hangs in trees, forested areas.
- Red Bat** — Solitary; forested areas.
- Western Yellow Bat** — Known only from Tucson.
- Western Big-eared Bat** — Caves, usually at higher elevations.
- Mexican Big-eared Bat** — Mines and caves in the oak woodlands.
- Pallid Bat** — Many habitats, all elevations.
- Mexican Free-tailed Bat** — Mines, caves, buildings, mainly lower elevations.
- Pocketed Free-tailed Bat** — Mines and caves at lower elevations.
- Big Free-tailed Bat** — Mines and caves at lower elevations.
- Western Mastiff Bat** — Rock crevices at lower elevations.
- Black Bear** — Higher mountains, mostly in the Chiricahua and Catalina Mountains.
- Raccoon** — Streams at all elevations.
- Coati** — Fairly common, oak woodlands, Mexican Mountains.
- Ring-tailed Cat** — Brushlands, all elevations; seldom seen.
- Long-tailed Weasel** — Many habitats, all elevations.
- Spotted Skunk** — Brushlands, all elevations.
- Striped Skunk** — Many habitats, all elevations.
- Hooded Skunk** — Common, brush and woodlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.
- Hog-nosed Skunk** — Common, brush and woodlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.
- Kit Fox** — Desert brushlands.

Gray Fox – Brushlands, Upper and Lower Sonoran.
 Coyote – Many habitats, all elevations.
 Jaguar – Straggler from Mexico; foothills.
 Ocelot – No recent records.
 Mountain Lion – Broken or forested country, all elevations.
 Jaguarundi – Brushlands or deserts and lower mountain slopes. Recent records from near San Xavier Mission, Florida Canyon, lower part of Carr Canyon.
 Bobcat – Brushlands, all elevations.
 Spotted Ground Squirrel – Grasslands, Sulphur Springs and San Pedro Valleys.
 Rock Squirrel – Rocky areas, Lower and Upper Sonoran.
 Harris' Antelope Squirrel – Deserts and grasslands.
 Round-tailed Ground Squirrel – Deserts, lower elevations.
 Cliff Chipmunk – Brushlands and woodlands, mountains.
 Arizona Gray Squirrel – Oaks and pines, Catalina and Huachuca Mountains, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.
 Abert's Tassel-eared Squirrel – Introduced; Catalina Mountains.
 Apache Fox Squirrel – Pine-oak woodlands, Chiricahua Mountains.
 Pygmy Pocket Gopher – Meadows and stream-banks, from Huachuca Mountains westward, Upper Sonoran.
 Valley Pocket Gopher – Meadows and valleys, all elevations.
 Silky Pocket Mouse – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Arizona Pocket Mouse – Deserts, south and west of Tucson.
 Bailey's Pocket Mouse – Deserts, south and west of Tucson.
 Desert Pocket Mouse – Deserts and grasslands, Lower Sonoran.
 Rock Pocket Mouse – Lava flows and rocky areas, Lower Sonoran.
 Hispid Pocket Mouse – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Merriam's Kangaroo Rat – Deserts and grasslands. Lower Sonoran.
 Ord's Kangaroo Rat – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Northern Grasshopper Mouse – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Southern Grasshopper Mouse – Weedy fields and grasslands, Lower Sonoran.
 Plains Harvest Mouse – Grasslands, Cochise County.
 Western Harvest Mouse – Weedy fields and grasslands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.
 Fulvous Harvest Mouse – Grasslands, western Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties.
 Pygmy Mouse – Grasslands, Upper Sonoran.
 Cactus Mouse – Cactus, Lower Sonoran.
 Merriam's Mouse – Deserts, Pinal, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties.
 Deer Mouse – Many habitats, all elevations.
 White-footed Mouse – Brush and woodlands, all elevations.

Brush Mouse – Brushlands, all elevations.

Pinyon Mouse – Rocky pinyon-juniper areas, Chiricahua Mountains.

Rock Mouse – Rocky areas, Chiricahua Mountains.

Hispid Cotton Rat – Open riparian and grassy areas, Lower Sonoran.

Least Cotton Rat – Grasslands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Yellow-nosed Cotton Rat – Foothills and mountains, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties.

White-throated Woodrat – Cactus and brushlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Mexican Woodrat – Rocky brushlands, Upper Sonoran.

Norway Rat – Introduced; cities.

House Mouse – Introduced; cities.

Porcupine – Brushlands and forests, Upper Sonoran and Transition.

Antelope Jackrabbit – Brushy grasslands, foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit – Open deserts and grasslands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Eastern Cottontail – Woodlands, Chiricahua Mountains.

Desert Cottontail – Deserts and brushlands, Lower Sonoran.

Peccary – Deserts and brushlands, Lower and Upper Sonoran.

Mule Deer – Desert brushlands, mostly near Tucson and westward.

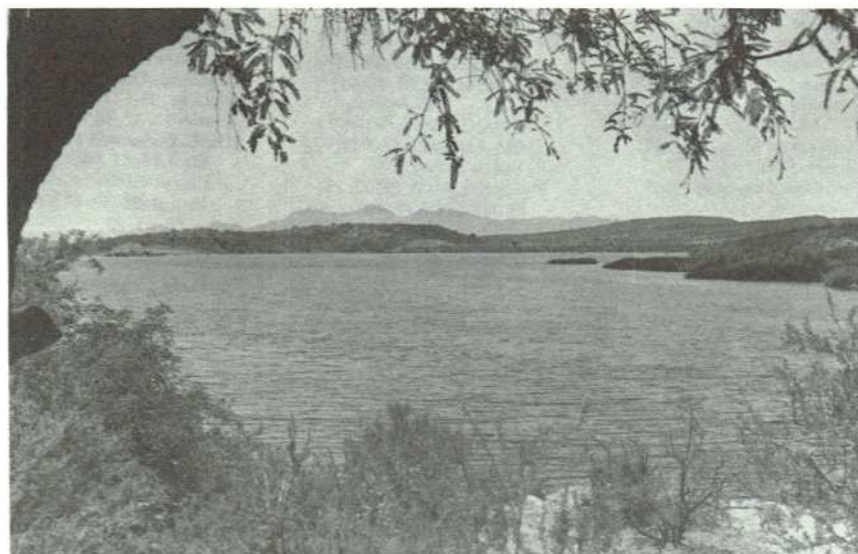
White-tailed Deer – Woodlands, mountains and higher foothills.



Sonoita Creek Sanctuary

LOCAL BOOKS FOR SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

- Benson, Lyman — **Cacti of Arizona** — (1969) University of Arizona Press (\$6.95)
- Brandt, Herbert — **Arizona and Its Bird Life** — (1951) Bird Research Foundation of Cleveland (\$15.00) — out of print.
- Cockrum, E. L. — **The Recent Mammals of Arizona** — (1960) University of Arizona Press
- Kearney and Peebles — **Arizona Flora** — (1960) University of Arizona Press (\$15.00)
- Lowe, C. H. — **The Vertebrates of Arizona** — (1964) University of Arizona Press (\$5.00)
- Monson and Phillips — **The Birds of Arizona** — (1964) University of Arizona Press (\$15.00)
- The Vermilion Flycatcher** (monthly bulletin) — Tucson Audubon Society, Box 3981, Tucson, AZ 85717 (\$4.00)
- Western Birds** (quarterly) — Carol Yutzy, Treas., Mile Hi Ranch, Box 84, Hereford, AZ 85615 (\$5.00)



Lake Patagonia

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